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A close-up photograph of two pink lotus flowers with yellow centers, set against a background of green lily pads. The flowers are in full bloom, with many layers of petals.

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FLEA MARKET *gardens* 2015

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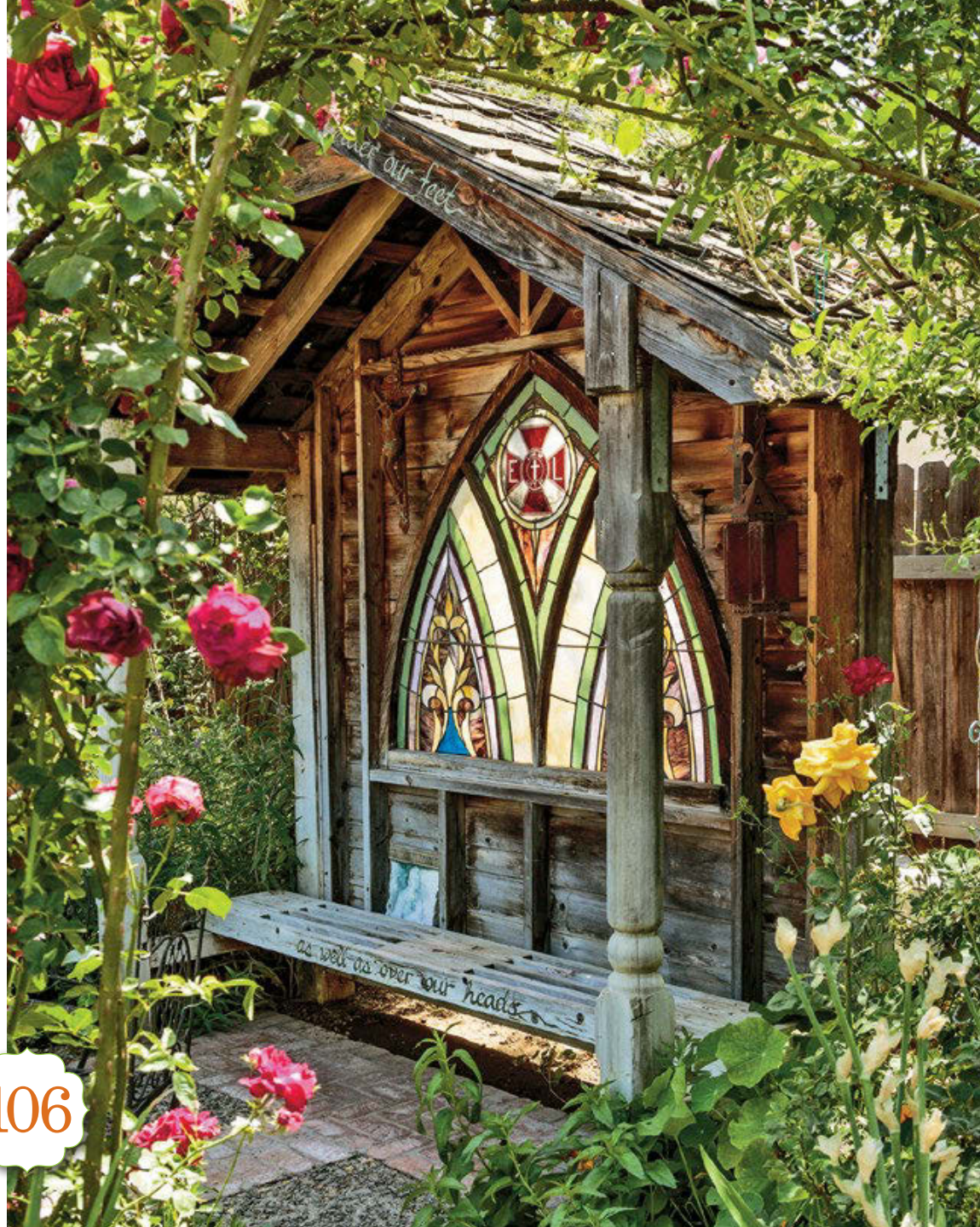
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from
the editor

vintage travels



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for our magazine
cover) for updates,
between-issues
news, and to
interact with
fellow enthusiasts.

When I travel, for work or for pleasure, I always visit public and private gardens and never leave home

without my camera. I make a point to hit the local antique and garden shops to see what's on offer. I make special trips to flea markets just to soak up the atmosphere, see what people are buying, and talk to vendors. From them I learn not only about their wares but how to use them in unique ways. And these are the folks who will tell you about all the other spots you've got to see or places you have to go while you're in the area.

These habits serve me well for my profession, but my biggest problem with this kind of lifestyle is that I'm also a collector and a gardener. Which means that while I'm doing all this looking, I'm finding and buying as well. I can't remember the last time I went somewhere and didn't come home with a vehicle filled with new vintage or junk treasures for my garden.

This behavior might worry me if I didn't know that my obsession is shared by most of you and all the lovely people whose gorgeous gardens make up the content of this magazine. Every homeowner we talked to is driven to seek out the unusual and bring it home whether they have an immediate need or the piece just speaks to them in some way. These

gardeners share how they've repurposed and recycled, collected and displayed, and in the process created personal and imaginative havens that reflect their passions.

As you cruise across country with us on these pages, we hope you find lots of inspiring ways to bring flea market style into your garden. Take the ideas and give them your own custom spin.

Enjoy the ride!

Debra

Debra Wittrup, Editor



The latest flea-market addition to my garden is a tiny pavilion made from salvaged windows.

Caruth Studio

Flea Market gardens®

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on our cover

An open-air shed stores all your potting needs while preserving your garden views. See how to build this simple structure on page 16.

Photography: Chris Hennessey
Styling: Caruth Studio



Photo by Andrea Caughey



GAP Photos/J. S. Sira

Designing with Succulents

These colorful, geometric, plump-leaved plants thrive in all manner of pots and won't wilt when you forget to water them.

Succulents are problem-solvers. They come in every color, are shallow-rooted, start readily from cuttings, and don't mind minimal watering. Some succulents are groundcovers and cascaders; others are upright and spiky. Many resemble roses.

They're accustomed to harsh climates so they store water to survive periods without it. The fatter its foliage, the less water a succulent wants.

A cracked birdbath or nonfunctioning fountain are eyesores-no-more when planted

with a combination of cold-hardy hens-and-chicks (*Sempervivum* sp.) and stonecrops (*Sedum* sp.); or (if frost-protected) echeverias, aeoniums, agaves, and aloes.

Succulents need good drainage lest their roots rot. But a little-known fact about these remarkable little plants is that they're fine in non-draining containers, providing the soil stays barely moist and is never soggy. Although many succulents thrive in dry, desert-like conditions, they prefer not to bask in hot, afternoon sun. Give them morning sunshine and protection

later in the day.

So, fill a repurposed sugar bowl, flour sifter, coffee mug, or colander with cactus mix (available by the bag at nurseries and home improvement stores), then plant with succulent rosettes or stem cuttings. Cover bare soil with pebbles, and you'll have a mini-garden perfect for the patio or a windowsill, or a one-of-a-kind gift for a gardening friend.

Water succulents weekly in hot weather and monthly in cold. For non-draining containers, dribble water at the base of the plants.

POST A NEW MESSAGE on the fence with an old mailbox filled with contrasting *Sedum rubrotinctum* 'Pork and Beans' and *Aeonium* 'Sunburst', *top left*. The old galvanized mailbox and weathered fence provide a nearly seamless background for the perky plants.

BROKEN TERRA-COTTA pots and a vintage produce crate provide a uniquely designed home for a mix of *Sempervivum*, *top right*. The rims of varying-sized terra-cotta pots create a series of concentric circles within the rectangular box.



GAP Photos

FOR A PLEASING COMBO, use the same design principles as you use in other pots. Choose a large succulent for drama, several mid-sized fillers, and a cascader or two, *left and bottom*.

RECYCLED TINS offer the perfect size container for diminutive succulents. The rosettes of houseleeks (*Sempervivum* sp.) fill these colorful cans to the brim, bursting over the tops like bubbles, *below*.



GAP Photos/Friedrich Strauss



GAP Photos

succulents for starters

Echeveria 'Perle von Nurnberg' produces teacup-size rosettes. It thrives in rock gardens and container compositions. Agave 'Blue Glow' has spiky, fleshy red-edged leaves and can grow to over seven

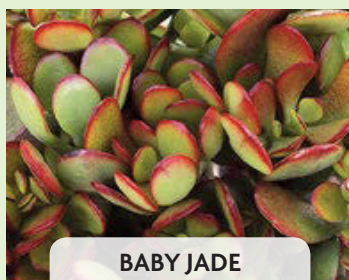
feet in height and is beautiful in landscapes and containers, especially backlit by the sun. Baby Jade is a tiny branching shrub with glossy round leaves. It produces starry white flowers. Try it in a mixed cactus container.



ECHEVERIA



BLUE AGAVE



BABY JADE

Photos courtesy of provenwinners.com

A rusty metal drawer offers rustic contrast to finely textured Sedum rupestre 'Lemon Ball'.



GAP Photos/Jerry Pavia

Garden Guardians

In the old days, farmers would stake a pole in the ground and make a man-like figure out of discarded clothing, straw for a head, with a ratty hat.

The idea was to create an instant patrol for scaring off the birds that would gobble up their crops. Hence the idea of the scarecrow was born. Unfortunately, the said birds would often get used to the fellow and end up using him as a perch!

Meanwhile, since the days of Oz, the funny wobbly guy with straw popping out of his sleeves has taken a whole new walk down the garden path. Like the yellow brick road itself, these new-age scarecrows adorning rural and urban gardens have taken on magical meaning and a sense of wonder.

When making a scarecrow, be creative and recycle ordinary materials such as tin cans, old clothes, scrap wood, wire hangers, or plastic plant containers (see above). The easiest way to make a scarecrow is to set a wooden cruciform in the ground, dress it with old garments and stuff it with straw. Then, add the bits and bobs that give it personality.

These scarecrows assume a sculptural or statuesque quality, and become part of the garden's design, rather than a scrappy thing for the birds. They add whimsy and a sense of fun, and can be completely custom designed and individualized to you and your garden. Make them a part of your backyard, as ornaments or conversation pieces.



GAP Photos/Pat Tuson



GAP Photos/Jerry Pavia



There are no rules for making a scarecrow. Here, one is fashioned from wires, a helmet, and fatigues—military style. Play with different professions, reflecting those in your family.

INSTANT GARDENER Tired of mowing? This fellow made of spray-painted canisters is a clever take on the guy usually scheduled to mow. He carves a path riverside beside blooming daffodils, *opposite top*.

WANTING WATER Looking more like the Tin Man, this scarecrow holds a watering can, and gives Toto a sip while he's at it, adding a fun touch to a flowerbed, *opposite bottom*.

LUSH WHEELBARROW A wheelbarrow planted with beautiful seasonal flowers always needs a lady to push it, *above*. This scarecrow models the latest garden fashions in gloves, a bonnet, and a long skirt.

CREATIVE CORNER A small tin-can creation adds a sculptural pop to a garden niche, *above, right*. His rust over time just equals more character.



GAP Photos/Suzie Gibbons, Design by Martin Scorey

Bye-Bye Birdie

Did you know the earliest birdbaths were simple depressions dug into the ground by bird lovers

to create an often muddy, watery spot for birds to bathe in and cool down?

Pulman & Sons, a British garden design company, is said to have built the first properly functional birdbath, a raised structure with a water-filled basin, in the 1840s.

The birdbaths we know and love were born. They became sculptural in quality, basins placed on pedestals and columns made of stone, marble, glazed terracotta, concrete, and other weather-resistant materials. They also became highly decorative with bas-reliefs and statuary incorporated into their designs.

Birdbaths have also moved on from their intended function; birds can still be attracted to gardens with birdhouses, feeders, and certain plants without the need for a basin of resting water, which also can entice mosquitoes.

Try making a fountain out of a birdbath with moving water, if you still want to give birds a chance to cool off; or use one as a planter. Find vintage ones to repurpose as pots, damaged ones to reuse as garden sculpture, or buy new ones and give them your own artistic touch or spin with paint or mosaic crafting.

Clearly, birdbaths are no longer just for the birds!



TWO FOR ONE The design of this terracotta birdbath is such that it can serve as a two-tiered planter, *above*. Stack and affix a smaller birdbath on top of a bigger one for a similar effect.

MOSAIC MAGIC A homeowner covered this birdbath in red, white, and blue mosaic pieces, *left*. Embedding the basin with a mossy green star invites the viewer to look within.

© Terry Donnelly

GAP Photos/Leigh Clapp

FAVORITE THINGS The cupid pedestal of this stone birdbath holds up a basin full of vintage treasures, right. The china pieces are in a similar hue or style, to pack a visual punch.

HIGH AND DRY Trailing succulents, as well as floret-shaped ones, add interest and depth to a now-dry birdbath, below. The bright blue glaze makes the container pop against a bed of groundcover.

Repurpose miscellaneous or damaged china pieces by filling a birdbath basin with the weather-resistant beauties.



Photos by Cameron Sadeghpour

Make a "fountain" from a birdbath, with blue glass stones in its basin and streams of beads hanging down from its rim.



Photo by K. C. Vansen, Landscape design by Dan Davis and K. C. Vansen

written by Deb Wiley photographed by Mark Lohman
styled by Sunday Hendrickson



the charm factor

Since 1991, when a trio of friends started a garden business in southeast Wisconsin, their vision has grown more beautiful every year.

You could call Northwind Perennial Farm a garden center. But this 10-acre oasis of serenity in rural southeast Wisconsin represents far more than that to its devoted patrons, who often drive more than an hour from Chicago.

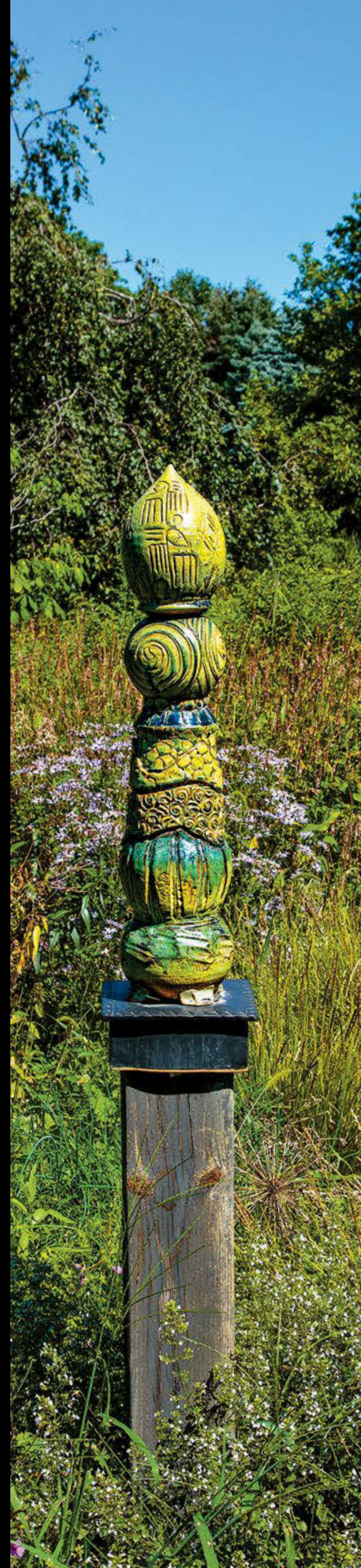
“Northwind has become a place for people to come and gather ideas and, hopefully, inspiration,” says Colleen Garrigan, one of Northwind’s three owners. “People are treating it more as a park and a sanctuary.” That’s due to the hardy, field-grown plants for sale, the gorgeous contemporary perennial display gardens designed by partner Roy Diblik, and the enticing hardscaping installed by partner Steve Coster. But there’s another reason, too, one that Roy likes to call “the charm factor.” That’s Colleen’s job.

“I love to find things someone else thinks have no life to them and bring life back,” she says. “I feel that’s part of the attraction of Northwind.”

Colleen scours flea markets and garage sales for castoff items that hold the personality of history. She’s friends with dealers from a several-state radius, many of whom display their wares at Northwind’s antiques show every June—where she, of course, gets first pick of the lot. Others who know her ability simply bring her things.

“They know their items will have a good home,” Colleen says. “I find beauty in something that has memories and history attached to it.”

A CERAMIC PIECE made by a local potter, Teresa Wooden, that’s mounted on a post stands as a 4-foot totem, *left*. **ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE** pieces from an old farmhouse, *right*, were reconfigured to create an arbor that leads to a woodland garden. The structure is stabilized at each corner by stone stacks encircled by wire.



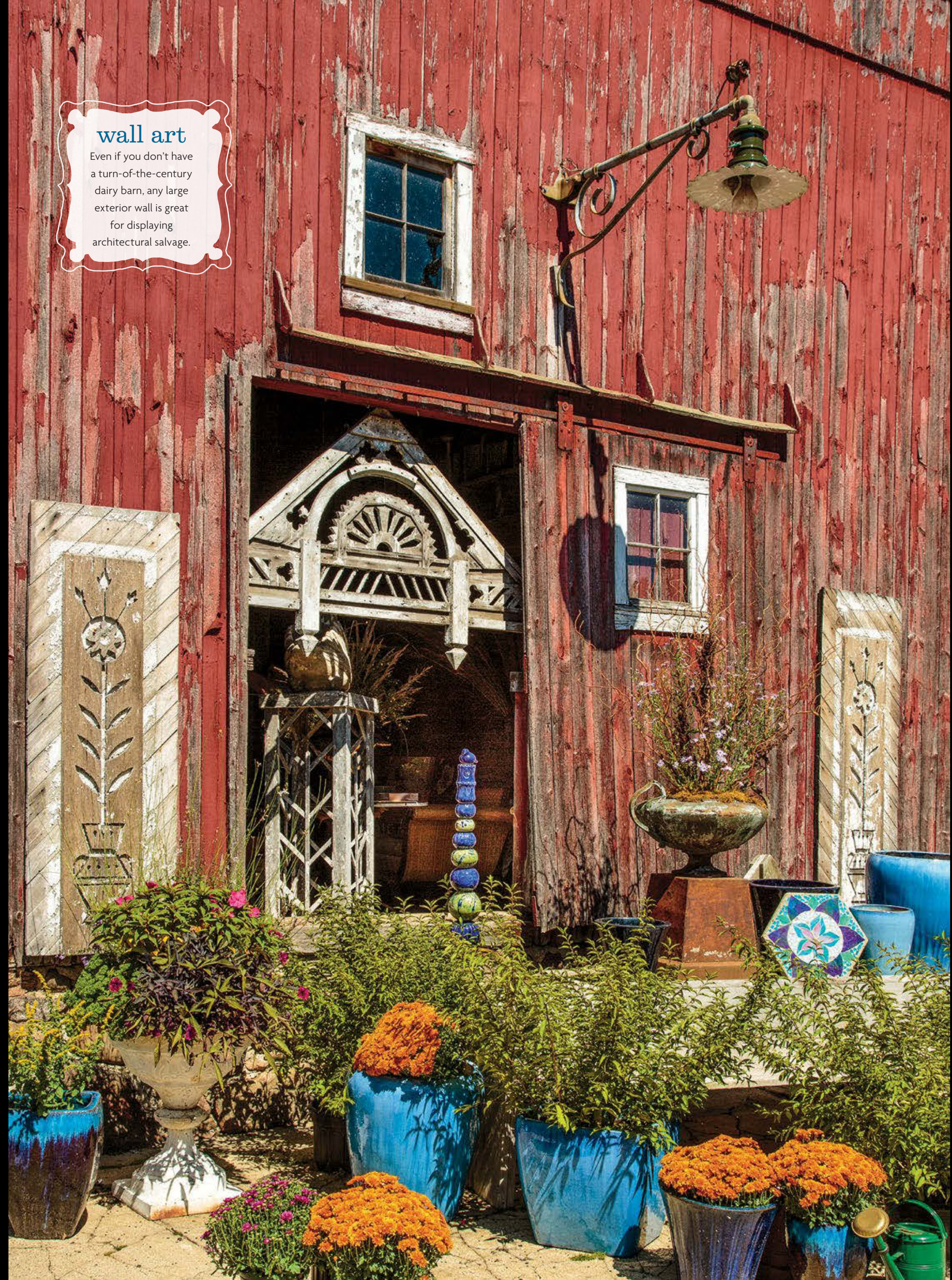


farm art

Examine old farm implements to see if sections can be cut apart and used as garden art. Old paint and rust is encouraged.

wall art

Even if you don't have a turn-of-the-century dairy barn, any large exterior wall is great for displaying architectural salvage.



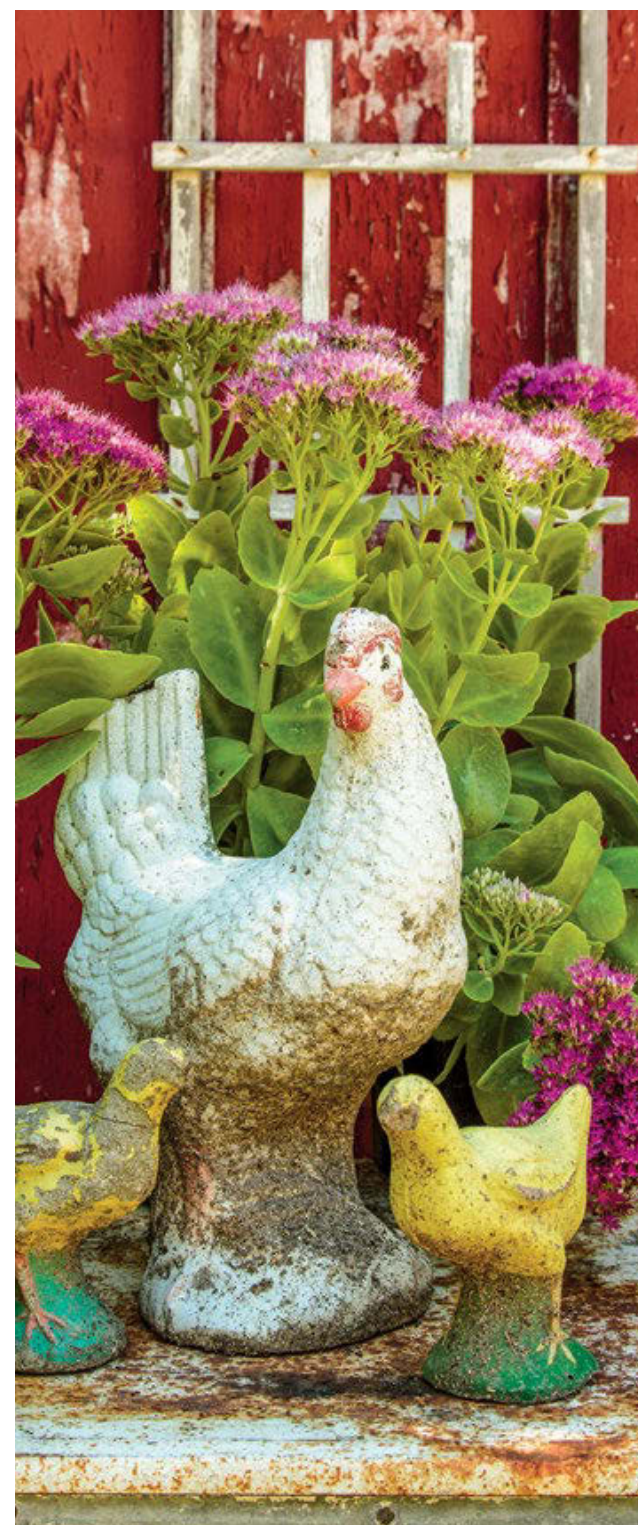
Many of Colleen's finds are for sale at Northwind's garden shop, headquartered near a turn-of-the-century dairy barn, but you'll also find her personal collection scattered in sweet vignettes throughout the property.

Certain items speak to her. "I love that they give me a sense of something from the past—and all the hard work that's gone on in the past to get us to where we are today," Colleen says.

She hopes visitors find inspiration from the combination of new and old items. "I'd like to be able to help people place garden art," Colleen says. "I don't believe you can have a garden without accents to show who you are. Adding structural interest only makes a garden more appealing. And you can change pieces around and bring in new ones all the time."

After being in charge of charm for nearly 25 years, Colleen places pieces by instinct. But she says people who listen to their hearts can do it easily, too. "First, the piece has to speak to you as an individual," she says. "Then it's all about what becomes pleasing to your eye. Place one thing, and when you feel right about where it is, play off that. It's kind of like creating a collage."

Colleen works in small spaces, starting with one wall or part of the garden and working outward. Over time, the design reflects both continuity and change. "That's been the joy of creating Northwind," she says. "We've pieced it together over the years."



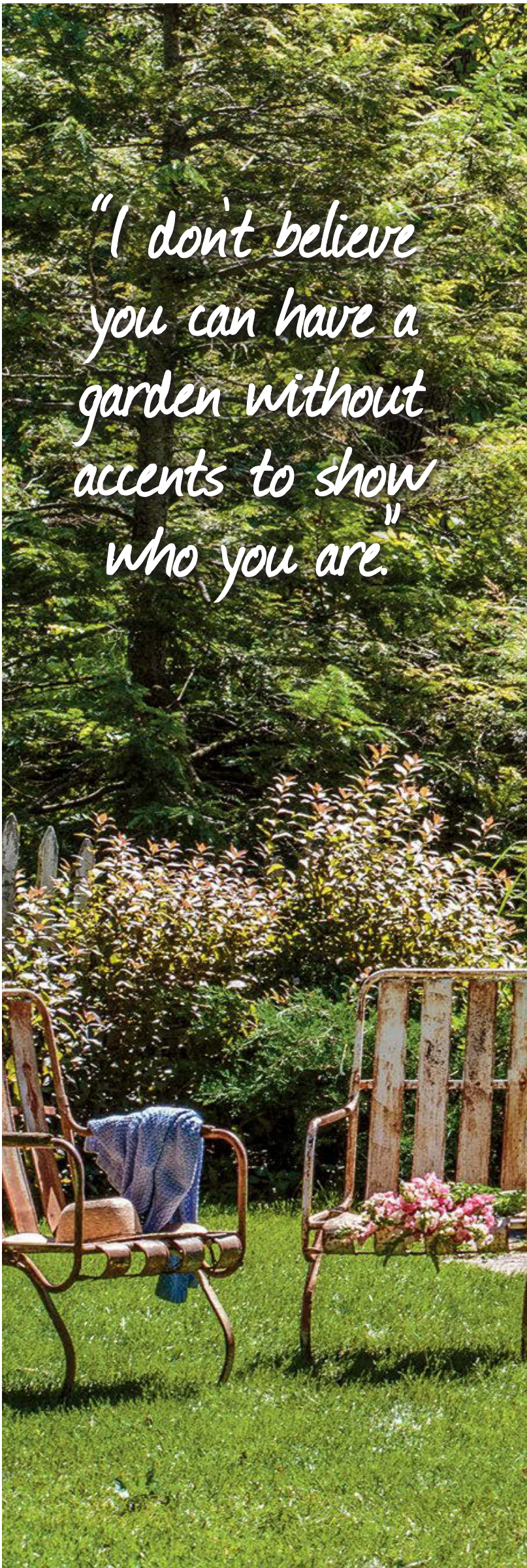
THE LIGHT FIXTURE on the dairy-barn-turned-garden shop, *opposite*, is a vintage Belvidere, Illinois, streetlight that's special to Colleen because it was a gift from her father. **A COLLAGE** of iron grates adorns a 12-foot garage wall, *top left*. **GOATS, DONKEYS**, chickens, geese, ducks, dogs, and cats especially delight Northwind's urban visitors, *above left*. **VINTAGE CHICKENS** meld with the living ones, *above*. **THE CHICKEN COOP** houses hens. It also displays a collection of white vintage trellises, *left*.



A MINIATURE weathered windmill stands sentinel over easy-care Carefree Delight shrub roses, *left*. Rose of Sharon blooms resemble miniature hibiscuses, *below*. **NOT EVERY ITEM** is vintage; this classical urn is a reproduction that blends well with the look, *bottom*. **A BELOVED EMPLOYEE**, Bob Bowers, created this picket-fence-meets-corncrib-style arbor that brides often pose with when they get married at Northwind, *right*.



Perennials take about three years to fully mature.



"I don't believe you can have a garden without accents to show who you are."



use white

White or light-colored garden structures or ornaments draw the eye, calling attention to a special piece or place to wander.

shed retreat

in a weekend

You can build a budget-friendly open-air shed that brings work space, storage and cottage charm to your garden.

written by Debra Wittrup
photographed by Chris Hennessey



WELCOME BIRDS with a small feeder made from a cup and saucer. Use epoxy to glue the cup to the saucer and let dry. Glue a copper female adapter to the bottom of the saucer. When dry, slip it over a length of copper pipe in the garden bed.

OPEN TO THE ELEMENTS, this small yet roomy potting shed adds decoration and function to the garden while blending into the scene. As plantings mature, it will become more enfolded in the landscape.



No more excuses. If you've always wanted a small shed but thought you couldn't swing it, think again.

All your reasons may be valid: The garden is too small; a shed costs too much to build; it would take too long to construct; it would block a view. But this shed design puts all those concerns to rest. And it's easy to adapt to incorporate more or less of the individual touches you may want to include.

Just large enough to hold your essential potting tools and provide a work space, the shed is open to the top to keep your views intact. It is small, only 6 by 8 feet and 10 feet high, but it packs plenty of storage and organization space while adding a bit of wit and whimsy. And it's affordable. With a simple framework and minimal cladding, costs stay low. And the best part? It can be constructed by two people over a long weekend with a minimum of tools (power tools aren't required, but they do lighten the load).

Once the shell of your shed is complete, the fun part starts. You can customize it from the finish materials you use to the details you place inside. Our shed is clad in red cedar, for example, which imparts a delightful fragrance, but you could use old barn boards, old doors and windows, or rescued clapboard siding. If you want to plant climbers, attach an old ladder to the side of the shed for vines to ascend. One window box in the front makes a nice feature, but you could add them on all four sides of the shed to further blend your structure into the landscape. We painted the shed in bright matte hues from Annie Sloan Chalk Paint that give it presence in the garden, but you can choose more

economical latex paint in colors like sage and white, which blend with or complement your garden.

On the interior of the shed, inject even more style notes by going with a cottage look as we did, or opting for a farmhouse, rustic, or cabin style. A fabric apron concealing the storage area beneath the worktable gave us not only our overall color palette but also the style cues for the cottage decor. Saturated pastels and bright colors drawn from the fabric show up on the structure, small metal stool, the accents, and the plantings. The floral motif is a natural in the garden, and it's repeated in the pediment ornament, child's watering cans, and the stained-glass panel. Turned stair balusters used as shelf risers, scrolled brackets supporting a vintage frame, and a window frame with muntins enhance the cottage style of the decor.

If you have the space, create a small seating area near your shed. Provide cushions for comfort, a side table or two, and some containers planted with cheery annuals.

Finally, plant a small garden around your shed, whether for cut flowers, fresh herbs, or continuous color, to meld it into the site. Add some curves to the surrounding beds to counter the angular lines of the structure. Use a variety of foliage colors, shapes, and heights to keep things interesting. Limit the colors of flowers to a palette that coordinates with your shed and the plantings nearby. Edge your beds with found items such as our glass insulators or vintage collectibles like our cookie cutters.



VINTAGE ALUMINUM cookie cutters in animal shapes adorn the edging around the front bed, *left*. Each cookie cutter is hot-glued in place, then a small screw is inserted into the wood to secure it.

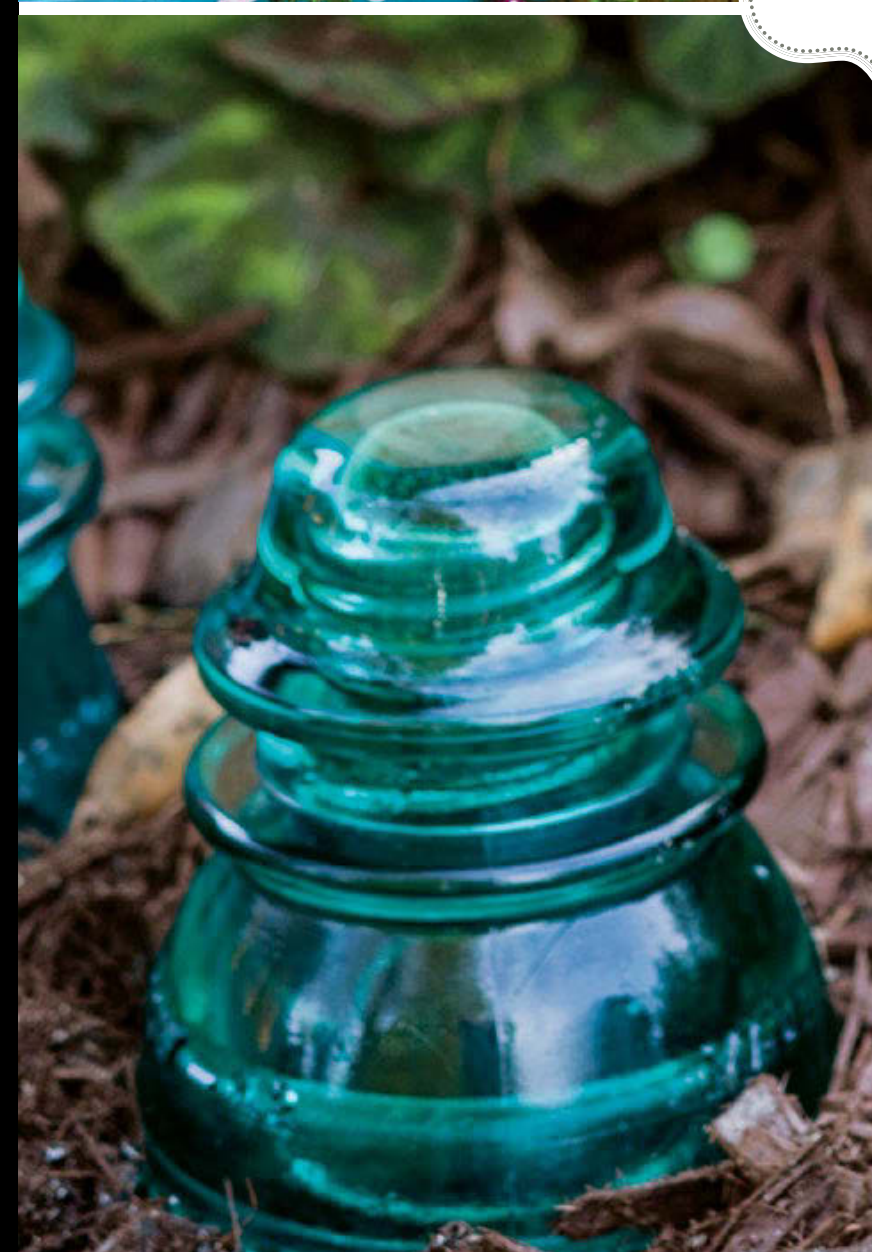
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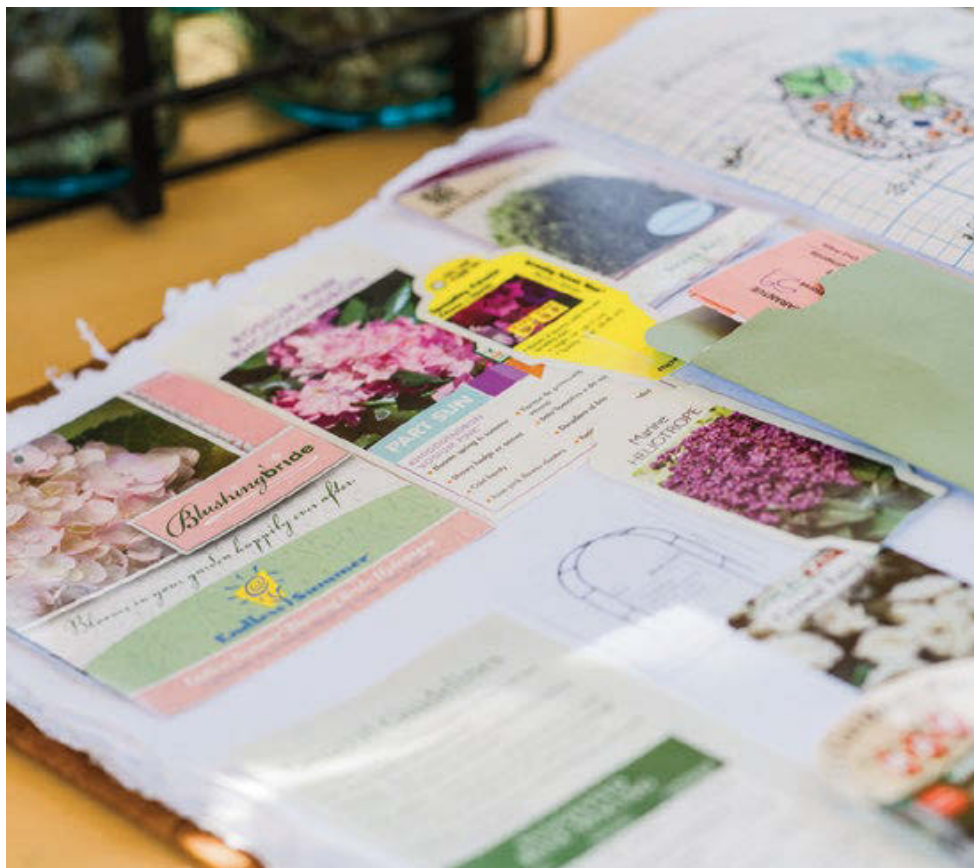
good looks

Use a variety of materials when decorating your shed to keep things visually interesting. Glass, iron, porcelain, and brass add patina and sparkle.



A **FLOATING WINDOW** hangs above the front wall to mimic the look of an enclosed shed, *top left*. A stained-glass panel creates the same effect over the back wall. AN **ORNATE FURNACE GRATE** frames an old fan blade, creating a unique floral ornament for the pediment, *top right*. A **CONTINUOUSLY BLOOMING** Endless Summer hydrangea echoes the color of the shed, *above*. The blue blooms are surrounded by Heucherella 'Solar Eclipse', Veronica 'First Trio', tapioca, and Little Devil ninebark. **GLASS INSULATORS** that once covered telegraph and telephone poles make a sparkling edging, *left*. The heavy pieces come in different sizes and configurations in clear or turquoise glass.

KEEP A JOURNAL of your gardening efforts from year to year. Tuck in plant tags to remind yourself of horticultural requirements, save drawings of bedding plans, and stow receipts for guaranteed shrubs, trees, and perennials.



Give your shed a look of permanence by siting it near garden features and sizable trees or shrubs.



AN AMPLE WORK SURFACE provides space to pot plants, store necessities, add decorative flair, and write up your gardening journal, *above*. **SCREW A METAL FUNNEL** to a post for a handy place to keep your gardening twine, *far left*. Thread the twine through the funnel tip for an easy-to-grab solution. **IRON CULTIVATOR TINES** offer a tidy spot to hang your gardening hat and apron, *left*. **AN ANTIQUE FRAME** encloses a painted chalkboard, perfect for reminders, *opposite, bottom left*. **A WELL-USED TACKLE BOX** gets a new lease on life as a tool box for small gardening supplies and seeds, *opposite, bottom right*.

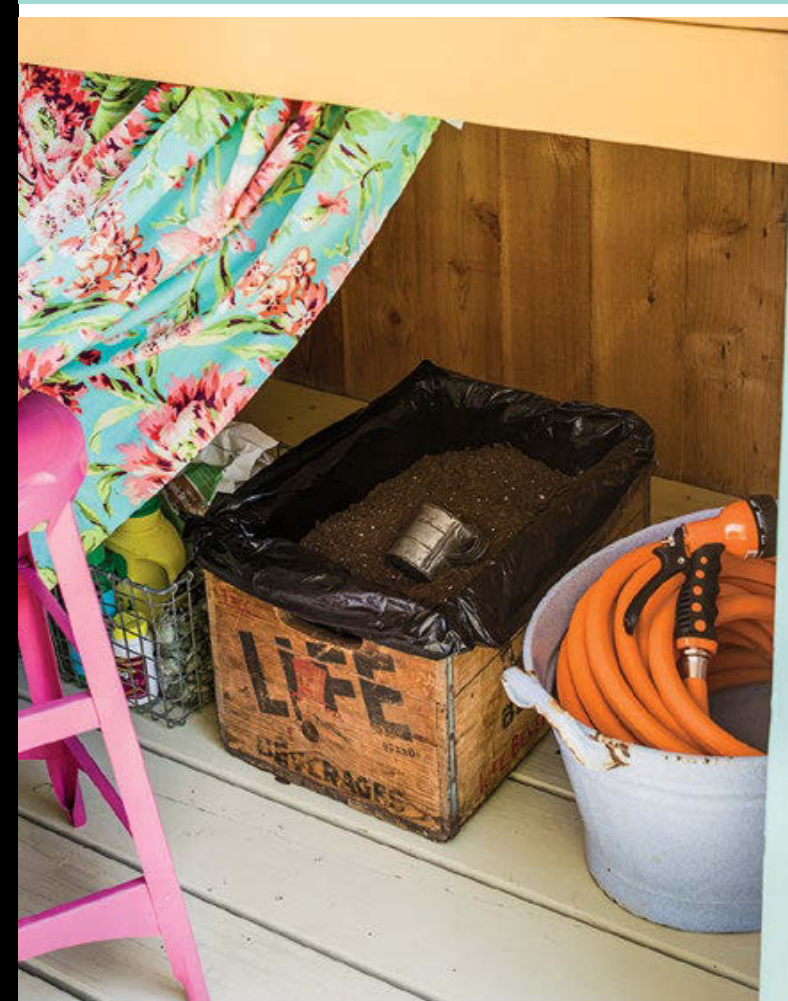
faux fun

Add architectural detail to your shell. Use turned balusters as shelf risers, hang old window frames, and use old porch posts instead of 4x4s.





THE HINGED CHALKBOARD raises above brackets that swing out to support the framed piece as an additional work area, just the right size for cutting and arranging flowers, *above*. **KEEPING THINGS NEAT**, vintage locker baskets and an old bushel basket contain soil amendments behind the floral apron, *right*. **ROOMY ENOUGH** to add a shelf underneath the work table, this space offers ample storage for potting soil, fertilizers, and an old metal tub filled with a bright orange hose, *below*.





Build Your Own Shed

A trip to Lowe's, a few handy tools and willing hands, and you can build a simple open potting shed in your backyard this weekend.

1. PREPARE YOUR SITE Measure the perimeter of your shed to determine the placement of your posts. Using an auger or post-hole digger, dig 18-inch holes for four corner posts inside the outer measurements of your shed.

2. FRAME THE FLOOR Using deck screws, create a frame for your floor. We used a simple butt joint at each corner. Insert floor joists and screw into place every 2 feet, ensuring that the joists are straight by checking for a 90-degree angle.

3. SET THE FIRST POST Place the floor frame over the site and insert the posts into the post holes. Use the frame to ensure you have the posts placed correctly. Pound stakes into the ground at an angle toward the posts on two sides, use a level to make sure the post is straight, and drive screws into the posts to maintain its placement. Pour concrete mix into the hole, adding a small amount of water and mixing as you do so.

4. FINISH THE OUTLINE Set the remaining posts the same way. Allow the posts to set overnight as the concrete cures.

5. LEVEL THE FLOOR Before you remove the post stakes, attach the floor frame to the posts with deck screws. Use a level to make certain the floor is level on all sides, raising it if necessary before screwing it into place.

6. FRAME THE STRUCTURE Create a 3-foot wall at front and back with 2x4 studs screwed to the outside of the posts. Add 2x6 fascia boards around the outsides of the posts at 8 feet from the floor.

7. SET MIDDLE POSTS Determine how deep you want your work table to be and set two posts (following the instructions above) on either side of the shed. Add 2x4 studs to the outside of posts on the sides.

8. FRAME THE WORKTABLE Add framing studs on the backside of the middle posts, in the center of your worktable, and at the inside of the back posts.

9. CLAD THE STRUCTURE Create three triangular pediments for the roof. The angles will depend on how high you want your roof to be. Attach cedar fence pickets, cut to size, to the backs of the framing studs.


10. DECK THE FLOOR Screw decking to floor at each joist.

11. ADD THE ROOF Set the pediments atop the fascia boards and screw to posts, separating with a stud. Screw plywood board to the studs. Cover the board with corrugated metal roofing panels.

12. PAINT THE STRUCTURE in your chosen palette.

BUDGET
Lumber \$348
Concrete mix \$8
Roofing \$120
Hardware \$52
Paint \$105
Total cost: \$633





A VINTAGE or artistic label on a tin can can take it from cupboard to table or outdoor scene. Match “ingredients” you’re planting, like these ivy geraniums, to the colors on the can for best effect. **GET YOUR GARDEN** talking about this unique presentation. Shallow-rooted succulents can grow almost anywhere, *opposite*.

top up

Use a plant that flowers almost continuously or a sculpturally shaped plant to balance a container with a strong graphic image.

playful pots

Add quirky charm to your landscape by turning found and repurposed vessels into unique planters.



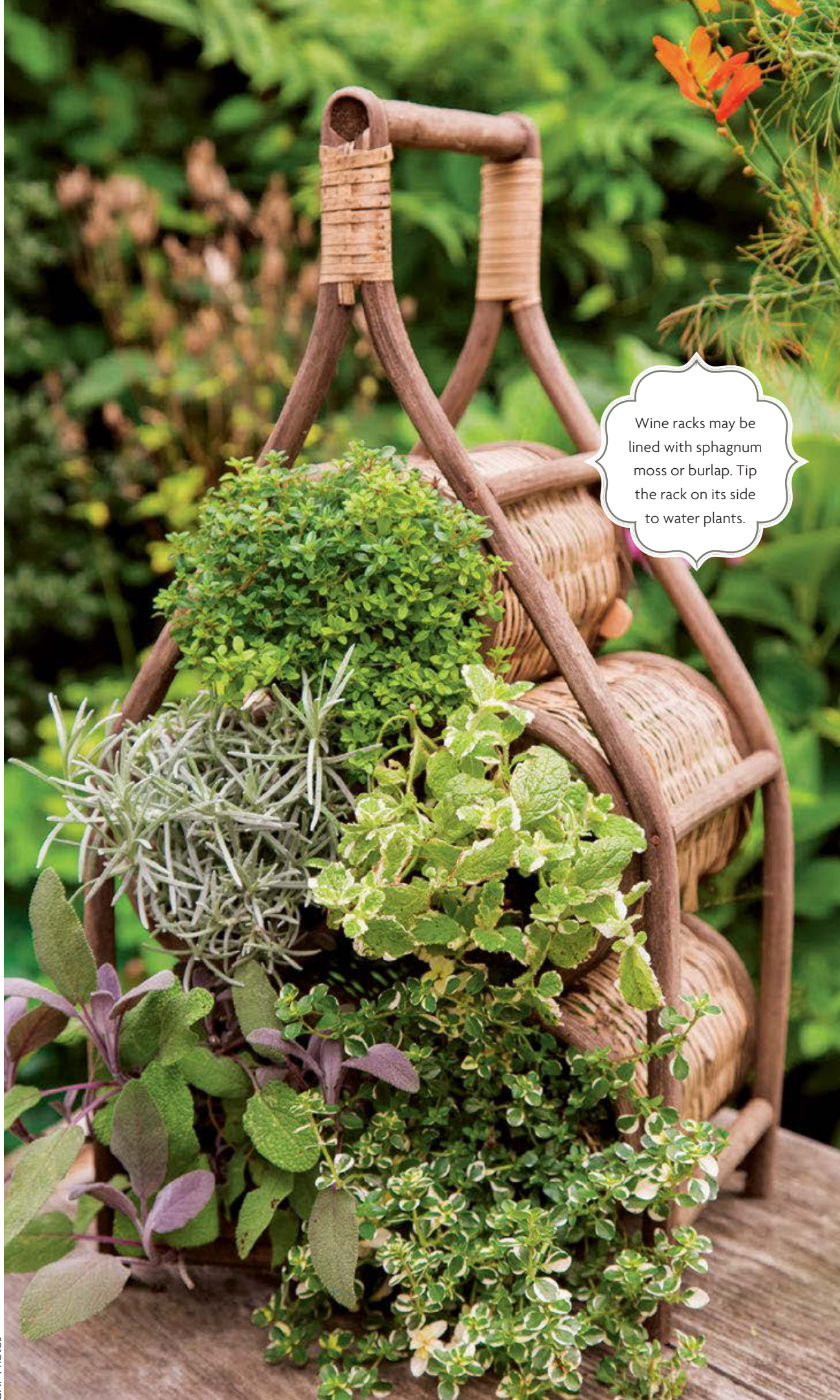
written by **Debra Wittrup**

Sometimes it pays to be a bit silly. It's fun to get whimsical with the type of plant container that you choose.

Flea market containers are wonderful additions to your garden. They fit as easily on even the smallest patio or balcony as they do on the steps of a suburban porch or deck. They nestle inside flowerbeds to fill gaps, and they serve as welcoming sentinels at a pathway's entrance. Use flea market containers as focal points and as places to grow specialty items such as water garden plants, shrubs, or vegetables. They're so versatile that they belong almost anywhere.

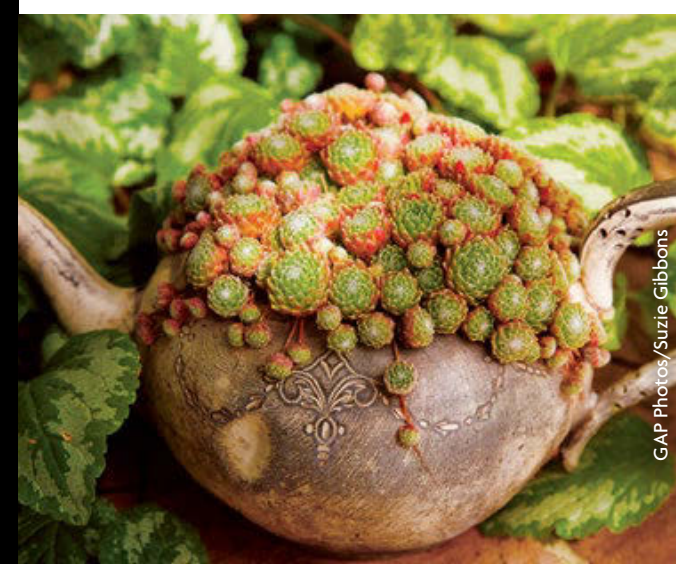
Just about anything that can contain a small amount of soil can be utilized as a plant container in your garden. The only requirement is drainage so that roots won't be sitting in water. Drill a few holes in the bottom of the container or, if that's not practical, add a layer of gravel or foam packing material in the bottom before adding potting mix (or in a large container like a bathtub, opt for plastic beverage containers to fill part of the space). For safety, don't use objects that have sharp edges or dangerous projections that may be hidden by plant foliage.

Line containers that have open sides, such as woven or wire baskets, wood crates, and birdcages, with sphagnum moss, landscape fabric, or burlap to keep soil in place. Mulch with marbles, shells, beach glass, or broken china for extra color, texture, or pattern.

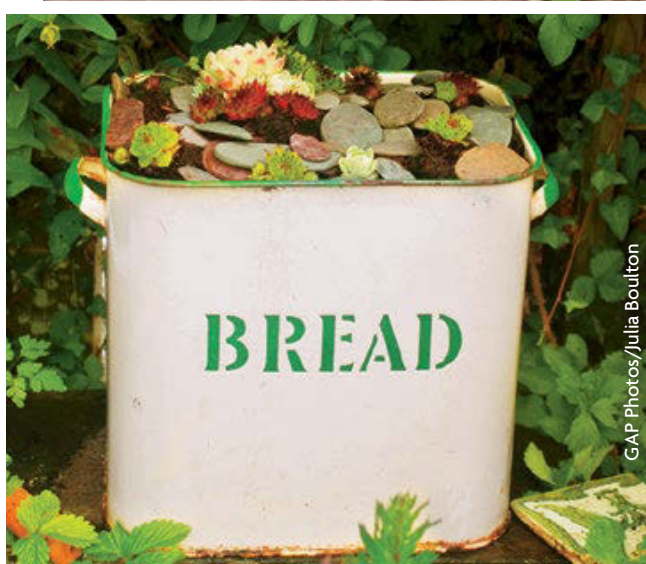


Wine racks may be lined with sphagnum moss or burlap. Tip the rack on its side to water plants.

GAP Photos



GAP Photos/Suzie Gibbons



GAP Photos/Julia Boulton



GAP Photos/Juliette Wade

around the house

Photo by Mark Lohman, Styling by Sunday Hendrickson

The more ornate
the better. Paint a
flea-market frame to
match your garden
accent colors.

GAP Photos/Simone Augustin,
Location: Park der Garten-Bad
Zwischenahn, Germany

PLANT HERBS directly into a wicker wine rack using a variety of colors and textures, *opposite, top*. **HENS AND CHICKS** are worthy of a delicate, yet traditional, container. Add a cream pitcher and sugar bowl, and stage them all atop a tray, *opposite, bottom left*. **WHEN IT'S ALL** about the container, succulents fill the bill without stealing the show, *opposite, bottom center*. **LETTUCE LOOKS** positively ornamental when you mix colors in an old enameled bowl, *opposite, bottom right*. **AN OLD INFANT'S TUB** is filled to the brim with a froth of pink impatiens, *top*. **FOR A FLOWER** "bed," cover bed springs with landscape fabric, top with sphagnum moss, then potting mix and plants. White and pink heather create a quilt, *above*. **A PICTURE FRAME** makes an unexpected and elegant statement around a wall tapestry of trailing plants, *right*.

Photo by Deb Wiley

*Use flower
and plant
forms that
are as playful
as the pots
you've selected.*



1



2



3



4

GIVE IT THE BOOT

Need a cheerful garden party centerpiece? Nab a pair of colorful children's boots and plant.

THIS PROJECT is easy to tailor to a party's color theme. Find a cute pair of children's rubber boots. You'll also need a drill or awl to poke large drainage holes in the bottom (1).

FILL THE BOOTS with potting mix (2). Add timed-release fertilizer if you plan to keep the arrangement long-term.

CHOOSE A PLANT that matches, coordinates, or contrasts with the color of your boots (3). The plant shown here is diascia, but you could use any long-blooming annual. Diascias often stop blooming if temperatures rise above 70 degrees Fahrenheit, so you might want to plant diascia in the spring, then replant with a heat-loving annual for summer, then switch back or try pansies in the fall.

AVOID OVERWATERING and check the soil frequently to be sure it's not too wet. Add a mulch (4), such as white marble chips, rocks, or marbles to keep moisture in when the weather warms up.

GAP Photos/Maxine Adcock

USE YOUR OLD FOOTWEAR as a cute garden accent, *opposite*. **MAKE CHILD'S PLAY** of planting a vintage sand pail, *right*. Trailing sedum is just the right size to fill this small handled pot. **ONE PERSON'S** tchotchke is another's treasure, *far right*. Picked up for pennies at a tag sale, this cute little planter provides a colorful home to tiny succulents. **NOTHING IS TOO SMALL** to hold a plant. A small flowering annual packs a payload in this little toy truck, *below*.

GAP Photos/Julia Boulton



Photo by Gridley + Graves



Photo by Jerry Pavia



Line the insides of old wood vessels with plastic to discourage decay.



GAP Photos/Jerry Pavia

Photo by Jerry Pavia

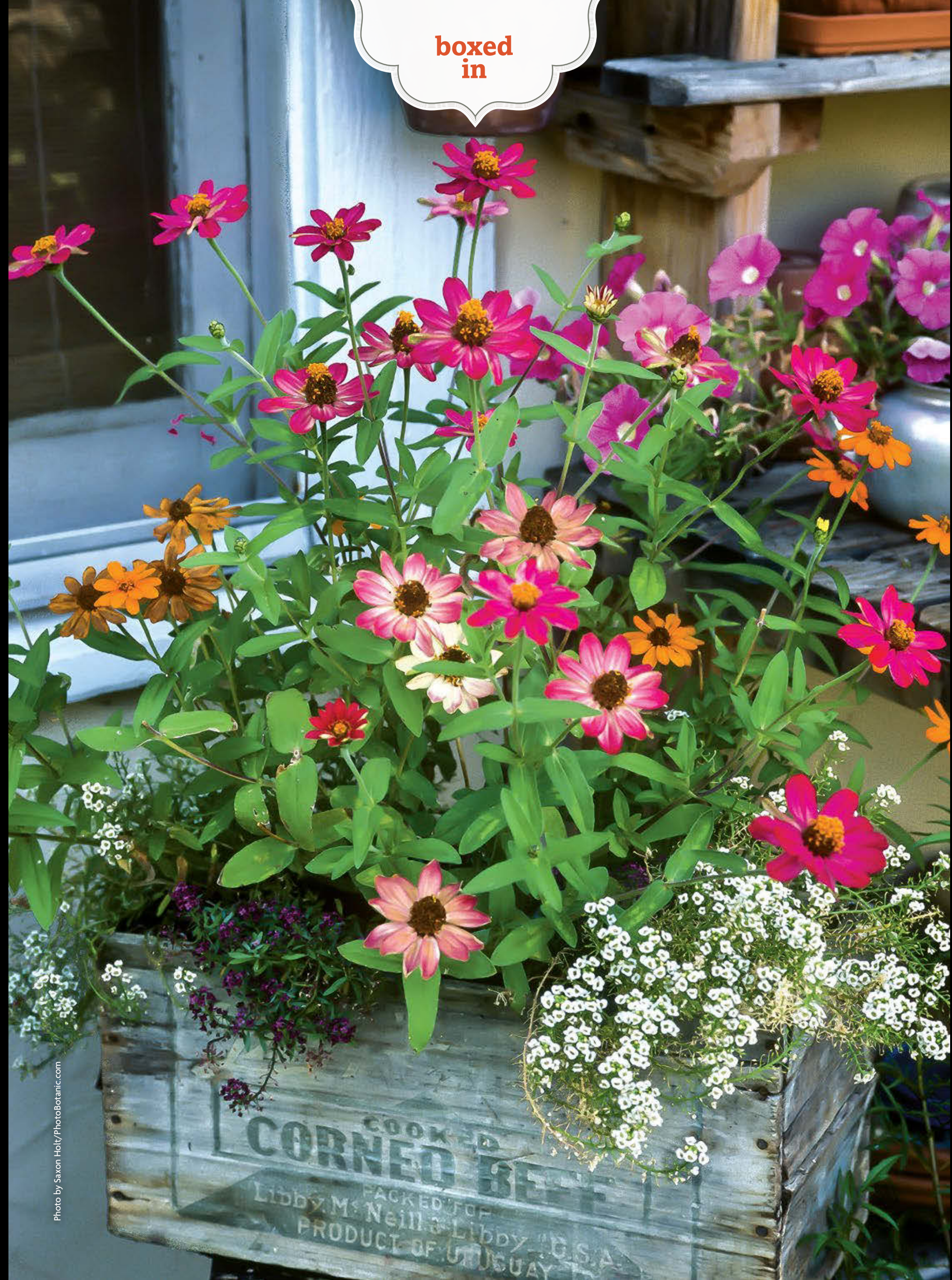
TINY TOPIARIES in a row fill this narrow metal bin. Trim the evergreen boxwoods as needed to keep their shape, *top*. **AN OLD BEVERAGE BOX** looks content in its new life as a plant pot. The delicate blossoms within offer a dainty contrast, *above*. **HOT ORANGE** calibrachoa combine with sweet potato vine, geranium, and croton leaves in an arrangement that complements the rusty orange metal container, *above right*. **PACK A TREASURE TROVE** of jewel-tone flowers in a suitcase that you leave open to display the wealth within, *right*. **PROFUSION SERIES** zinnias in hot colors are underplanted with white and purple alyssum in an old grocery crate, *opposite*.

Fill the bottoms of vintage containers with gravel or foam pieces for water drainage.



GAP Photos

boxed
in



yard work


move out

Old wheeled tools provide a bonus when used as plant containers. It's a snap to move the display to wherever a burst of color is needed.

Saxon Holt/PhotoBotanic.com

Photo by Jerry Pavia

Caruth Studio



A profusion of flowers can set off rusty tools that might otherwise be overlooked.

Photo by Jerry Pavia

KEEPING PLANTS IN SCALE with a vessel such as this rusting wheelbarrow allows you to pack a lot of color and textural interest into a smaller container, *opposite, top*. **A BEVY OF BLOOMS** fills this antique wood wheelbarrow, *opposite, bottom left*. **A CLEVER CONTAINER**, like this coiled hose pot, is a prime spot for a sweet plant combo, *opposite, bottom right*. Here, a Martha Washington geranium takes center stage amid delicate supporting players. **FILLED WITH A VIVID** assortment of annuals, an ancient coal bucket rests on an antique plow, making an ornament of the intriguing yet slender artifact, *above*. **THIS OLD SEED SPREADER** has finally sprouted its own crop of plants, *right*. Brimming with succulents, the garden tool becomes a focal point. **A DISCARDED TIRE** becomes both pot and frame in this amusing setup, *below*. Place it on a shed wall, a fence, or anywhere you need a spot of color.



Implements that have outlived their workaday utility make perfect plant containers.

Photo by Jerry Pavia



Caruth Studio



porch perfect

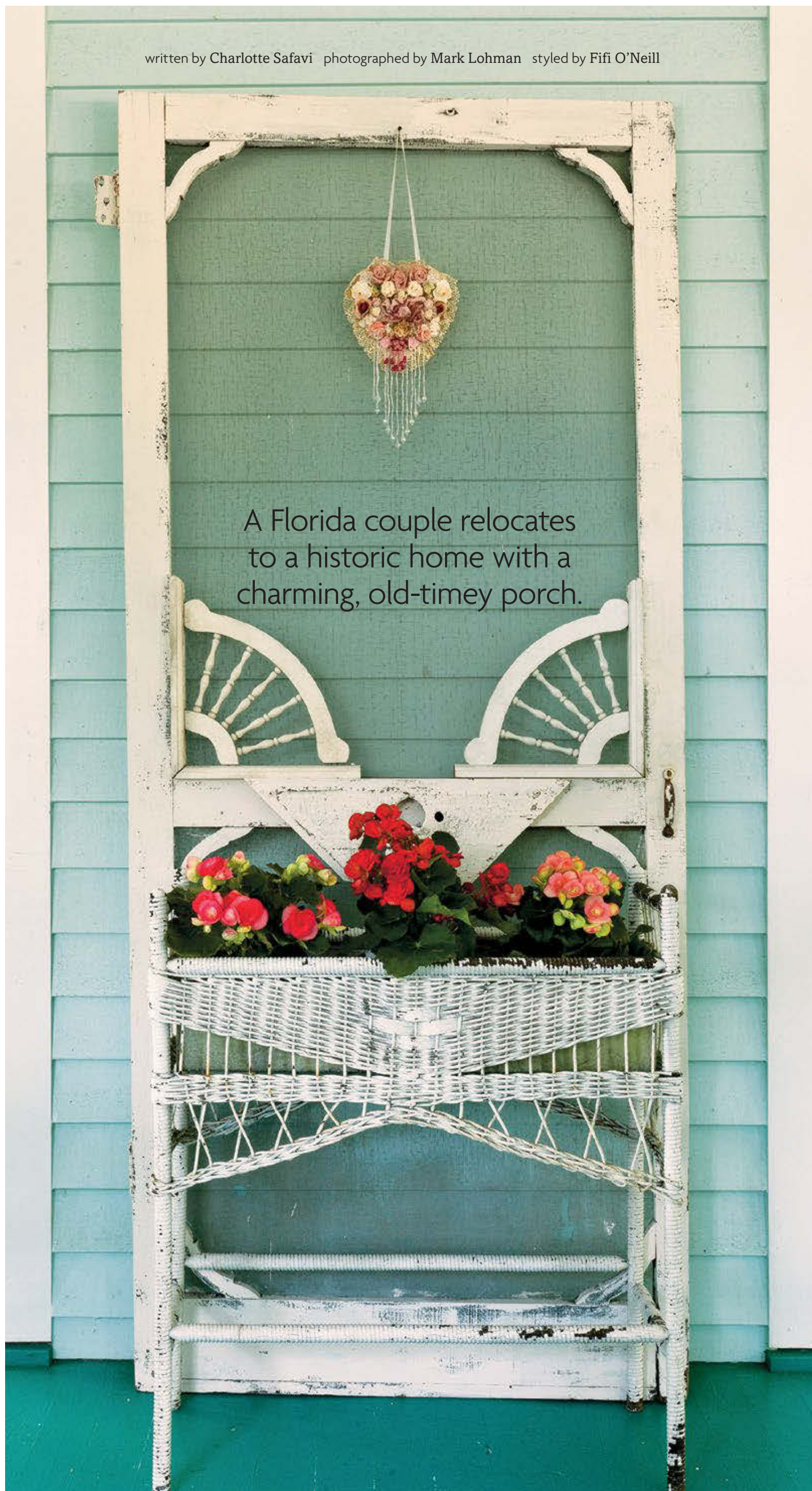
true blue

"This house needed to be bright," says Kathi. The colors she picked for the porch are aqua blues—tropical, bright, and fresh.

A Florida couple relocates
to a historic home with a
charming, old-timey porch.

UNITED BY COLOR White wicker furnishings, along with painted wood pieces, make up coordinated-looking seating, storage, and tabletop surfaces on the pretty aqua porch.

SCREEN TEST Kathi had bought an old screen door to use in her pantry but decided to keep it outside. She fronted it with a planter for flowering pots and hung a heart in the "window" to dress it up, *right*.





When we entered the beautiful front porch, we both knew this was our home,” Kathi Hurvitz recalls of the house she now shares with her husband, Larry. The couple had lived in a much newer house before moving to an older home in the historic neighborhood of Bungalow Hill on Florida’s Gulf Coast.

“Bungalow Hill is an area that includes many original homes from the early 1900s, and we love to stroll along the streets or sit on our front porch, admiring the old cottages that have somehow escaped demolition and are obviously lovingly cared for.”

The couple set about remodeling their home in a way that maintained or enhanced all its charming features, including its traditional Southern-style front porch. They added a brick pathway leading up to the porch and home, landscaped the entire front yard, and even added a white picket fence. They then painted the porch a lovely shade of vintage aqua.

For furnishings, Kathi found herself leaning toward the Shabby Chic style. The porch is decorated with white wicker furniture, along with mismatched vintage and antique pieces in wood. Salvage is also used to adorn the space. Kathi shares her motto, “Any furniture that isn’t white will be painted white!”

The porch is also home to many of the couple’s collections, things they own and have continued to collect over their years together, culled from local antique and furnishing shops to flea markets in Paris, which they try to get to once a year.

“I have gone through many different phases of collecting,” adds Kathi, “from rooster salt-and-pepper shakers to McCoy pottery to flowered creamers to beautiful mismatched china—which we use daily.”

Especially for their family gatherings—where the mismatched china is set out—the couple like to start the festivities on their beloved front porch.

PURPOSEFUL POSITION A lacy heart, encrusted with dainty rose buds, hangs as the focal point in the “window” of a cast-off screen door Kathi had purchased for her pantry. The door, however, found its “home” on her porch serving as outdoor artwork for all the Hurvitz neighbors to enjoy, *above left*. **COTTAGE BEAUTY** The Hurvitzes fell in love with this early-1900s beauty in Florida’s Bungalow Hill. Kathi and Larry set about landscaping their front yard to show off their Southern-style front porch, *above right*. **RIGHT LIGHT** A dainty chandelier adds flirty flair to the pretty porch, *opposite, top left*. **OPEN DISPLAY** A cupboard shows off assorted treasures, including a conch shell, an old painting, and rolled quilts, *opposite, top right*. **LOVELY LAYERS** Kathi collects and likes to layer old quilts, vintage linens, chenille bedspreads, and more, *opposite, bottom left*. **LACY COLLAR** Kathi playfully attached a sconce to an old door, and then wrapped it in a lace scarf with a brooch holding it in place, *opposite, bottom right*.





on
wheels

go bold

Choose annual flowers in hot, saturated colors over pastels for flowerbeds that really stand out in a landscape.



Annual color Show

written by Deb Wiley photographed by GAP Photos/Jerry Pavia

Get a big blast of color from annual flowers. Sure, you have to plant them every year, but they give a stunning blooming performance that other plants just can't match.

For attention-grabbing, season-long, in-your-face color, annuals have every advantage. Planting them in your containers and landscape is like adding bling to a little black dress: It's eye-catching and exciting.

Stacey Bishop's garden in Post Falls, Idaho, is a case in point. It overflows with exuberant color and gets additional interest from a variety of flea market finds, including wheelbarrows, bicycles, crock pots, galvanized buckets and tubs, and old wringer washing machines.

Buying annual plants that are already growing in pots from a garden center, as Stacey does, can add up to a considerable expense, especially if they are used throughout a landscape. But you can reduce the cost by starting plants from seeds.

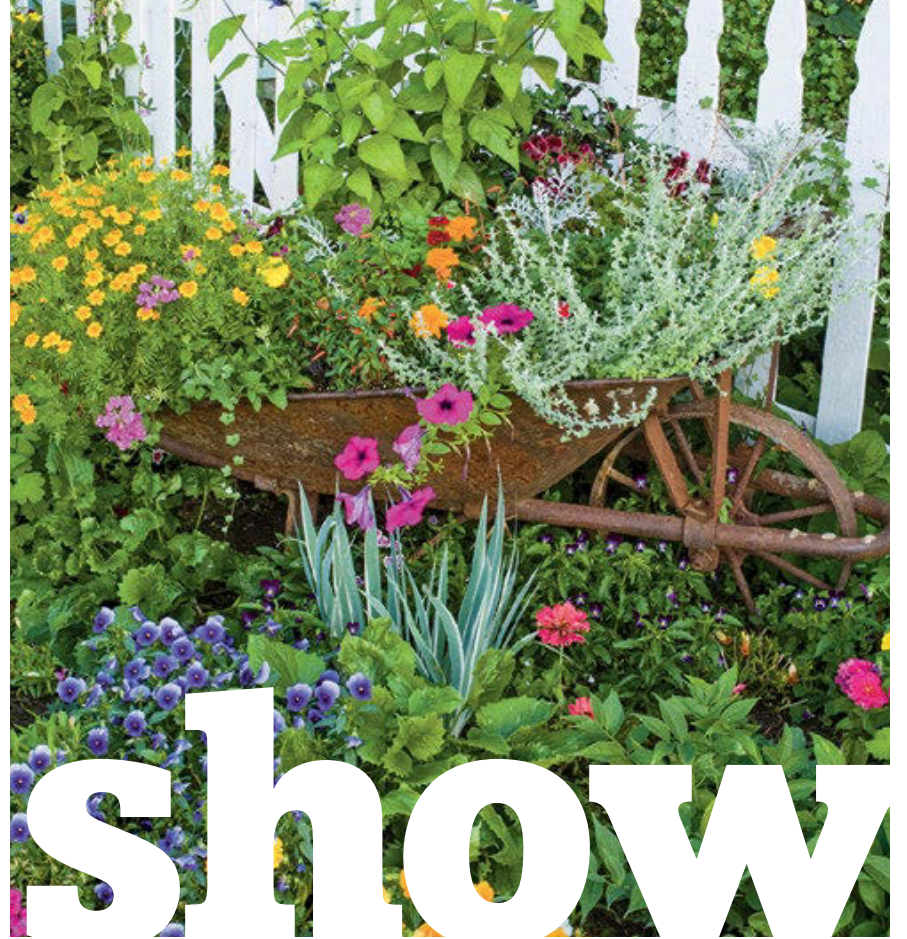
There are two ways to do this: Plant seeds in pots indoors several weeks before the frost-free date for your area. If you don't know when that date is, consult your local extension service. Or, sow the seeds according to package directions directly in the ground as soon as the soil is warm and dry enough to be worked in the spring.

Most annuals do their best flowering in areas that receive 6 to 8 hours of full sun per day. Also check to be sure the plants you want to grow are not actually shade lovers.

Not all annuals are created equal. Some, including diascia, violas, pansies, and snapdragons, are cool season plants. They

AN OLD WHEELBARROW, *opposite*, is almost hidden among the lush growth of petunias, violas, sedums, and marigolds. **THE RUSTED VINTAGE** wheelbarrow, *top*, provides a color contrast to the silver

licorice plant (*Helichrysum*), violas, petunias, salvias, variegated iris, cuphea, and dianthus. **PARK A LITTLE** red wagon, *right*, loaded with blooming containers, anywhere it can provide a pop of color, moving it as needed.





MOUNT A CONTAINER, above, to a wall where you need a punch of color. Yellow ligularias shoot up from a bed below. **GALVANIZED BUCKETS** with holes for drainage, center, make it easy to move container color around. Easy-to-grip handles make it simple. **KEEP THE GALVANIZED THEME,** lower left, with large tubs that hold petunias, daisies, salvias, ornamental oregano, cuphea, alyssum, and dusty miller. Another style of bucket, lower right, is filled with zinnias, petunias, and salvias. **FROM HANGING BASKETS** to clematis twining around the railings, this entry, opposite, packs colorful bloom power.



flower best when temperatures are lower and may go into dormancy during a hot summer, reviving again in the fall. Others, including tropical plants that aren't true annuals but shine in summer, thrive in hot conditions.

Many annuals do best when you keep their spent blooms cut off, a technique called deadheading. That's because the mission of an annual plant is to form new seeds from the flowers. If you keep the plant from setting seeds, it just keeps blooming and blooming until it gets the job done. Plant scientists also have bred many newer varieties to be sterile, so the flowers can't produce seeds but just keep blossoming.

Especially when grown in containers that are constantly watered, annuals need a little extra food to boost their bloom power. An easy way to enrich soil is to add a slow-release, coated fertilizer when you plant, so a little bit of nutrients will be released each watering. Or, water with a water-soluble fertilizer every week or two, using either a balanced 10-10-10 formula or one with a bigger middle number, which indicates a nutrient that promotes blooming.

By mid to late summer, many annuals that look a bit straggly can benefit from a bit of a haircut. Using pruners or other clippers, simply cut the plant back by a third to one half. Continue watering and feeding. In a couple of weeks, the plant should begin to show fresh, new growth.

Some of Stacey's favorite annuals are zinnias and petunias. The *Zinnia elegans* variety, terrific





in the
bucket

hole-istic

Your plants will drown and rot if excess water stays in the pot. Drill or pound holes into any containers that don't have drainage.



for bouquets, flower more profusely when cut. They come in a huge variety of colors and sizes, ranging from 5 to 6 feet tall to ground-hugging varieties. Narrow-leaf zinnias bloom all summer with very little deadheading.

Petunias also come in a huge range of sizes, shapes, and colors. Check the tag to know which form the mature plants will take. There are six types of ‘Wave’ petunias, for example, each with a different growing habit. Some grow taller than wide, while others hug the ground. The new ‘Surfinia Sumo’ petunias grow into very large mounds from just one plant.

Whatever you choose, you can always follow Stacey’s example and go wild. “Just plant things you like,” she says.



top tip

In tall crocks or large containers, save potting soil by filling only the top part of the pot. Leave room for drainage.

GREAT GROUPINGS begin with repetition, *above left*, of materials such as wood or metal. **GARDENER STACEY BISHOP** of Idaho, *above right*, loves how annuals brighten the landscape. **THE LARGE RED WING CROCK**, *left*, is planted with petunias, zinnias, marigolds, salvias, and annual rudbeckia. **PAIRING VINTAGE** wringer washer tubs, *opposite*, gives this composition height variety and allows the lower washer to help disguise the legs of the other.



just
for fun

*White gets
noticed. That's
why it's so
popular for
picket fences.*




go with the flow

Add a softly trickling fountain
made of found objects to
turn your garden into an
oasis of calm.

written by **Debra Steilen**





Let metal age naturally to give your fountain a sense of permanence.

A SMALL CAST-STONE fountain's burbling stream of water possesses the ability to make time and problems fade away, *opposite*.

STACKED FIELDSTONE, layers of moss, and a verdigris copper statue make this water feature look as if it has been in place for centuries.



Photo by Gridley + Graves

You've already incorporated the timeworn textures of flea-market finds into the garden. Now it's time to engage another sense by adding a splash of water to your landscape—with a DIY fountain.

As with real estate, location is key. Install the fountain on a flat, stable surface to keep water flowing correctly. You may want to put it where you can see it from the kitchen, where it can fill an empty spot in the garden, or where it can disguise an unfortunate view.

Happily, fountain requirements are simple. You'll need an electric pump and rubber tubing to recirculate water, and a reservoir to capture flowing water. You'll also need a focal-point piece through which the water flows—or upon which water from a pipe or faucet can be channeled.

The latter two components will engage your creative juices. The reservoir can be an actual pond, a galvanized-steel tub, or something as atmospheric as an old claw-foot tub, or a whiskey barrel cut in half. And as for the focal-point piece, look to your collections to find something that adds height to the display. Consider a metal or cast-stone statue, a large ceramic urn, or a watering can that can be mounted on a pipe.

Consider which plants will complement the overall concept. Building a European-style tiered fountain? Try Knock Out roses or manicured shrubs. Want a more casual look? Add ornamental grasses that move with the breeze. Include annuals to add desired color and fragrance. And enjoy the presence of birds and butterflies, who are as entranced by the water as you are.

timber trough

Choose accents that suit a fountain's style. Here, a vintage washbasin and colander contribute to a country-casual point of view.

COMBINE A VINTAGE HAND PUMP (painted to protect the surface from rust) with an equally old crock to create a tiered fountain that celebrates the past, *opposite*.

PERFECT FOR ITS RUSTIC SETTING, a tree-turned-trough catches water pouring from a copper pipe; its plumbing system is hidden behind the fence, *left*.

ONCE USED FOR LAUNDRY, an antique copper boiler now provides the framework for a small bubbler fountain and plantings, *below, left*.

WATER TRICKLES from one repurposed shovel into another as part of a man-made waterfall framed by rugged slate and river rock, *below*.

GAP Photos/Martin Staffler

Photo by Mark Lohman Styling by Sunday Hendrickson

GAP Photos/Dave Bevan

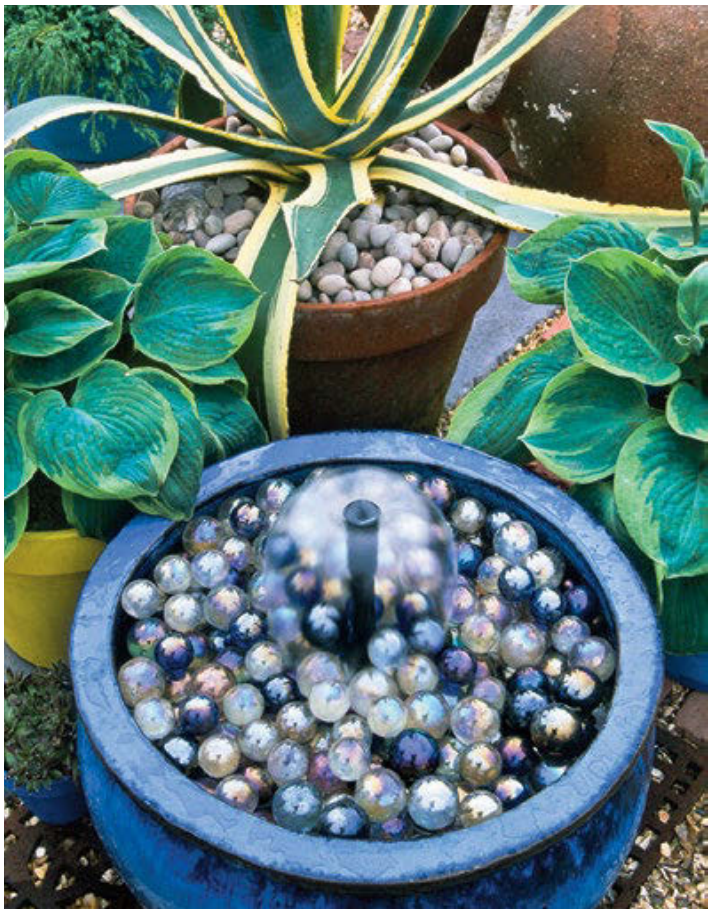
vessel care

Help your fountain survive its humid environment by choosing water-resistant materials: stone, bricks, concrete, metal, ceramics, and dense, durable woods, such as teak.





GAP Photos/Clive Nichols



GAP Photos/Mark Bolton

LOOKING AS IF it is suspended in midair, a King Neptune fountain (made of cast stone) is actually mounted on a mirror that reflects garden foliage. Water streams into a reservoir decorated with rocks, shells, and other found objects, *opposite*.

SURROUNDED BY FERNS and rhododendrons, a millstone-turned-waterfall tips its flow into a small pond, *above*.

GLASS MARBLES reflect the sky as part of a small-scale water fountain sharing garden space with potted hostas, *above right*.

GROUNDED BY mortared rock, a European-style tiered fountain stands alone at the edge of a field, *right*.



Enhance a fountain's presence by surrounding it with billowy grasses and/or showy plants.

© Elena Elisseeva / Stockfresh

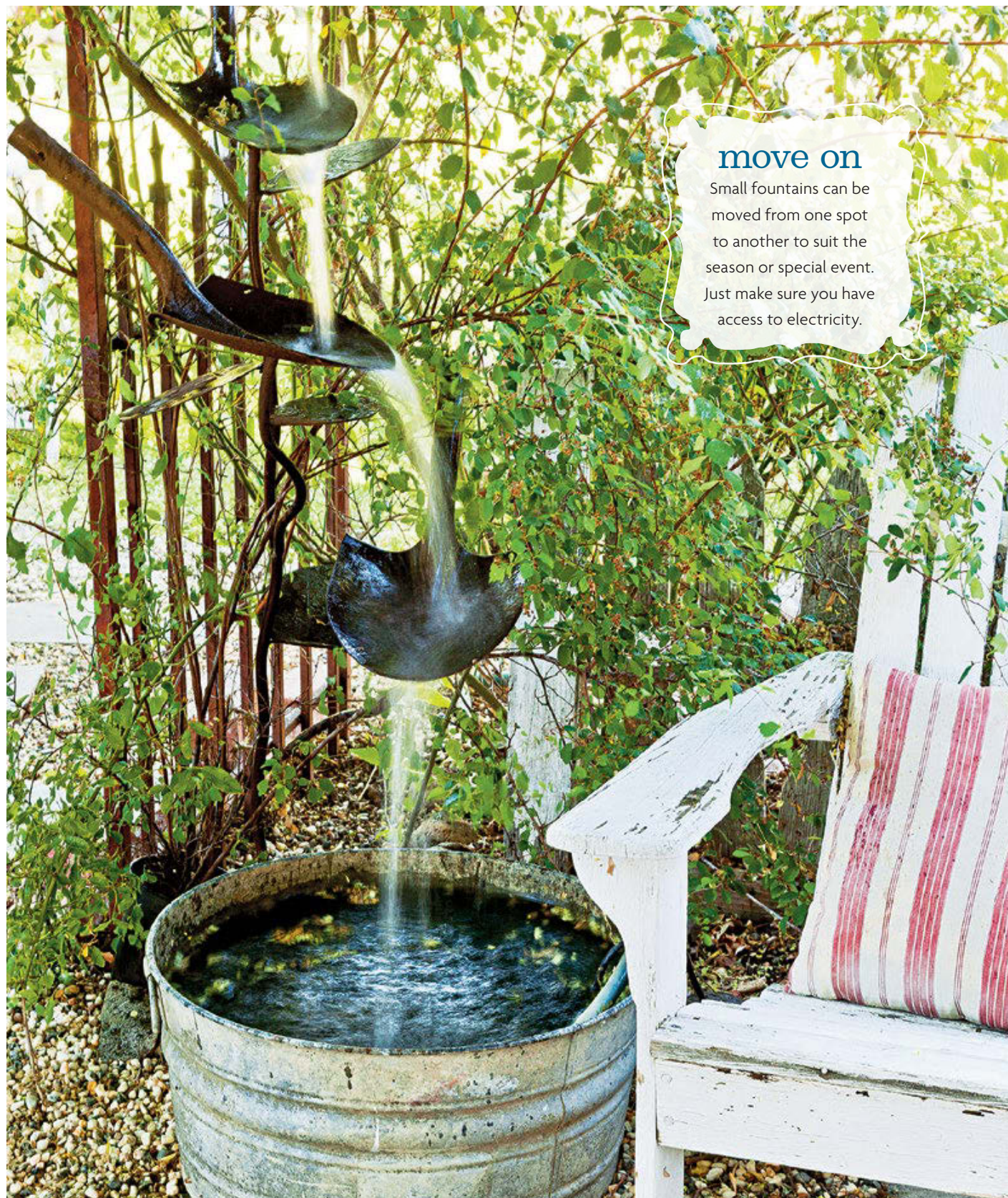


LUSH FOLIAGE hides the tubing that provides recirculated water to the watering can used with this galvanized-steel fountain, *opposite*.

SAWED-OFF SPADES provide the imaginative tiers for this fountain whose water flow culminates in a vintage tub, *right*. The compact footprint of this fountain lets it be located within a minimum of space.

BATHING right out in the open, a terra-cotta creature spits happily into a cut-down whiskey-barrel pond, *below*.

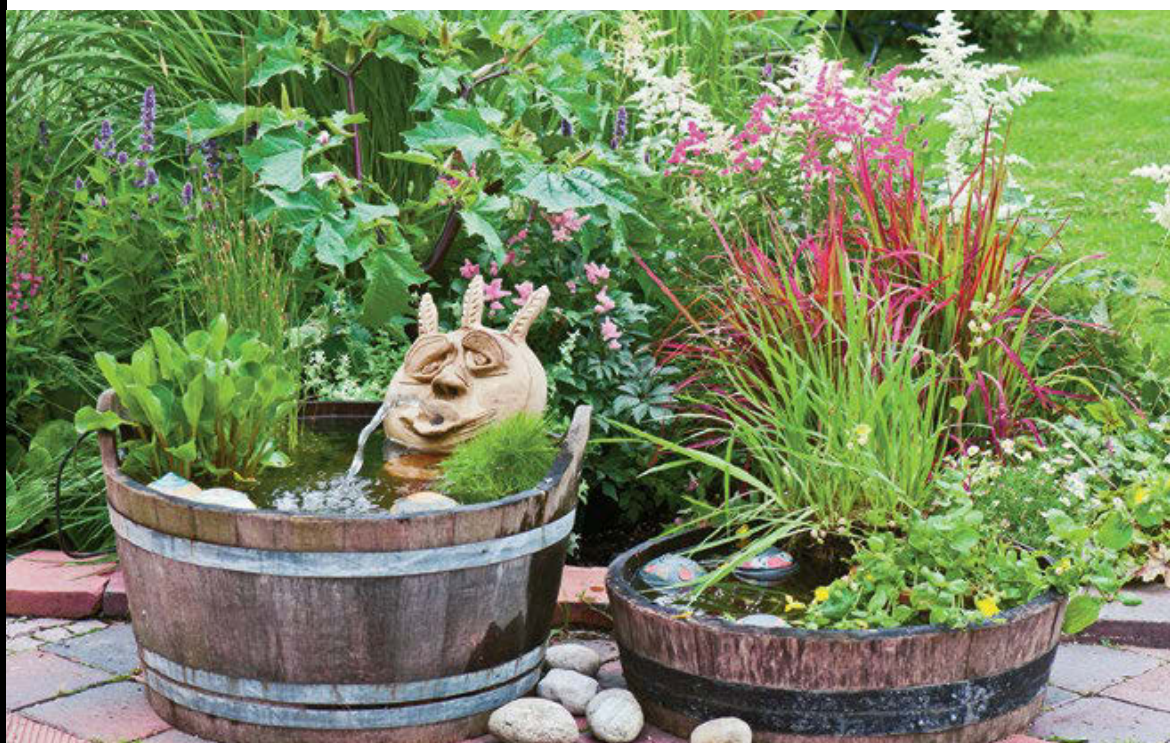
A TWO-TIER OAK-BARREL fountain creates a splash above a stone-set patio embellished with moss, *below right*.



move on

Small fountains can be moved from one spot to another to suit the season or special event. Just make sure you have access to electricity.

Photo by Mark Lohman, Styling by Fifi O'Neill



GAP Photos/Friedrich Strauss



GAP Photos/Fiona Lea

written by Charlotte Safavi
photographed by Mark Lohman
styled by Fifi O'Neill

storybook **vintage**

Cottage gardens are cute and informal,
but not fussy. See how Maggi Olmstead brought
the look to her California backyard.





WROUGHT IRON nabbed at a flea market makes for a nice, inexpensive patio set. The vintage birdcage on top was also a find in its original paint, but the watering can and flowerpot (to the left) were painted white by Maggi.

MAGGI PAINTED a hanging metal container, *opposite*. It brims with fresh white lilacs and pink bougainvillea.

W

“When we first moved into the house years ago, it was definitely a fixer-upper and the yard was tumbling down,” says Maggi Olmstead of the Vacaville, California, home and garden she shares with her husband, Jack. Fixing the house was obviously the priority, but after getting through that, the couple turned their DIY attention on their backyard.

“We had a couple of rotted wood decks, which we replaced with scored concrete patios and put in some columns to support a shade covering,” says Maggi. One of the patios sits off the family room and the other off the master bedroom. Other than a couple of trees, a very old pecan tree and a pretty Japanese maple, there were no other plantings.

Oddly, there was a metal shed plunked in the middle of the garden, which Jack and Maggi decided to keep for it served as garden storage, but not in its dinged-up condition or old location. They moved it to a corner of the yard, repainted it and adorned it to look like a charming cottage, thereby adding a garden feature and destination.

“We then started laying brick pathways from one side of the garden to the other,” recalls Maggi, pausing before adding, “We really did everything ourselves.”

Next came a small lawn, followed by flowering shrubs, such as azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias. English ivy and honeysuckle trail up fences and trellises, and roses and hydrangeas grow profusely in season. Annuals come and go.

“I like vintage things,” says Maggi of her approach to furnishing the garden. “We make a lot ourselves. My husband does all the birdhouses from fence boards and repurposed salvage. I go to garage sales and flea markets, and if I find something unusual I bring it home.”

The yard is filled with assorted finds: larger furniture, like the patio set off the family room, as well as whimsical knickknacks and salvaged pieces. Most of the items get Maggi’s signature white-paint treatment and perhaps some inspirational or meaningful signage. “I love white; it soothes me and makes me feel good,” she shares.

“We use our garden a lot,” Maggi adds. “We host lots of get-togethers and we also enjoy the patios on our own.”

A FRISKY STATUE hopped home from a trip the couple made to Arizona, *top left*. **MAGGI SKETCHES** out the designs and Jack builds the birdhouses, *top center*. This one has columns repurposed from a spindled chair-back. **THE COUPLE** host up to 70 family members once a year. Maggi made the sign, *top far right*. **COTTAGE CHARMER** Maggi and Jack turned their ugly shed into a charming cottage, *right*. The iron headboard came from their old guest room.



mask on

Growing a climber over a trellis is the perfect way to hide unsightly yard equipment.



faux view

By adding a window frame and old shutters to a blank wall, you create a room with a view where there is none.

A COUPLE of deck chairs from Sam's Club pair well with an iron table, *right*. The table base came from a junk store and Jack made the top.

THIS VINTAGE WIRE basket is a hand-me-down from Maggi's mother, *below*.

JACK'S BIRTH YEAR is 1935 and Maggi chose to commemorate it by painting this tabletop, *below right*.





MAGGI SPREAD her creative wings using plywood, PVC piping and yarn to make a garden angel, *left*. An angel statue sits next to her on an old wicker chair.

THE WOOD on this triple birdhouse roof was left unpainted so it could weather like shingles, *below*.



UPGRADING A BASIC SHED

"I wanted the ugly shed to look like a charming building," says Maggi. Here's how to add your own improvements:

FIND A LOCATION Figure out the best spot in the garden for putting the shed. Think about how you want to use it, and what you may want to put in or grow around it.

GIVE IT A FOUNDATION This shed sits on discarded railroad ties found on the property. Put down some kind of foundation so that the shed is stable and looks good.

ROOF IT Over the old metal roof, Jack and Maggi decided to add one made of wood to create the semblance of a

traditional gabled roof. Tying the roof style to the main house builds pleasing continuity.

PAINTING PRETTY Maggi used white paint for the main structure, tan paint to outline "trim" on the faux French doors she created, and grey paint for the "panes" to lend them a reflective quality.

DETAILS, DETAILS Shutters can be added on either side of the door, as in this shed. A welcome mat is a fun touch and a light fixture makes sense. Here, a lantern hangs off a shutter to one side. Add potted plants and a bench, and voila—you have a cottage!

MINI-TOTEM One cheeky stone face makes a fun statement when placed on a cement pedestal.

NICE NECK Atop a long neck (plumbing inside), this blue waterspout face has a hairdo of maroon coral bells, *opposite*. The blue hue is picked up in the hydrangeas.

Use a mix of flowers, big and small, to make a pretty Easter bonnet on a face flowerpot.

funny FACE

Add wit and personality to your garden with a facial feature.

written by Charlotte Safavi





GAP Photos/Lee Beet



GAP Photos/Friedrich Strauss

What's in a face? In the case of Helen of Troy, there was enough beauty in her visage to launch one thousand ships, thereby commencing the infamous Trojan Wars. Much later came the highly prized and avidly collected rustic American face jug pottery, with its folk art roots originating in the South. These surreal yet recognizable face jug pots came to market in the late 1800s, originally designed for buying and storing liquor; their hideous, grimacing faces were allegedly designed to keep the children out. No doubt about it, whether pretty or ugly, this fascination with faces, from delicate cameos to grotesque gargoyles, is part of our history.

So, it is not surprising that these funny faces are becoming fresh features in our home gardens, as saucy statements that make you simply want to smile back. The faces can be bought or made. They can be used as a stand-

alone sculptural feature or as an eclectic grouping. (Add personality in a group, members of a family, or characters from fiction.) Use them for water spouts in fountains or in other water features for whimsy.

The easiest way to tie a facial feature to gardening is to play with the notion of flora as hair on popular face flowerpots. Cluster them for impact, with different plants growing out as "hair," whether prickly mini-rose bushes, tall lanky reeds, floppy perennials, or ladylike hydrangeas.

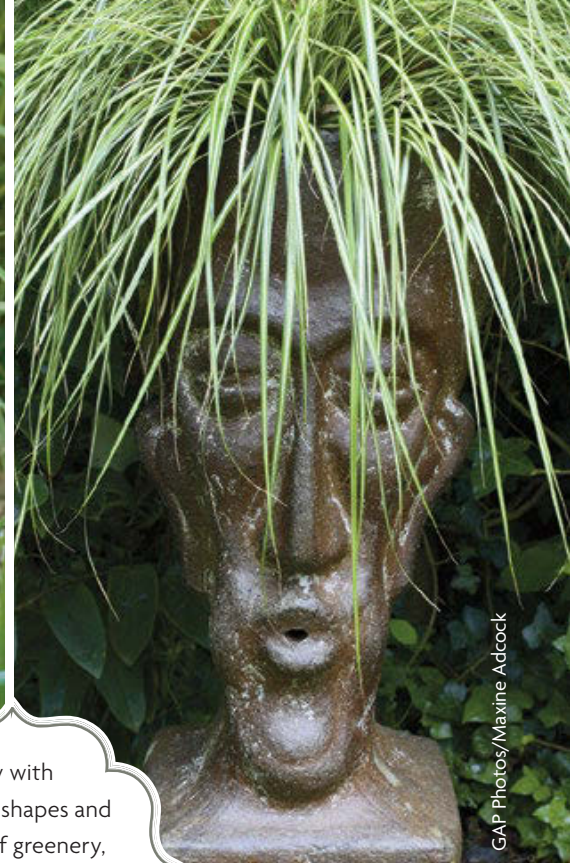
Other display ideas include affixing a face pot on a salvaged pillar or stair post; lining front or back door stairs with a bunch of face pots; or setting them out in tiers on an iron plant stand for punch. An easy project is to paint white plates with facial features in a weatherproof paint in vivid hues; these can be hung on a porch wall or staked to put in flowerbeds. Try painting faces on flowerpots, too.



Photo by Janet Loughrey, Landscape design by Joanne Fuller



GAP Photos/Christa Brand

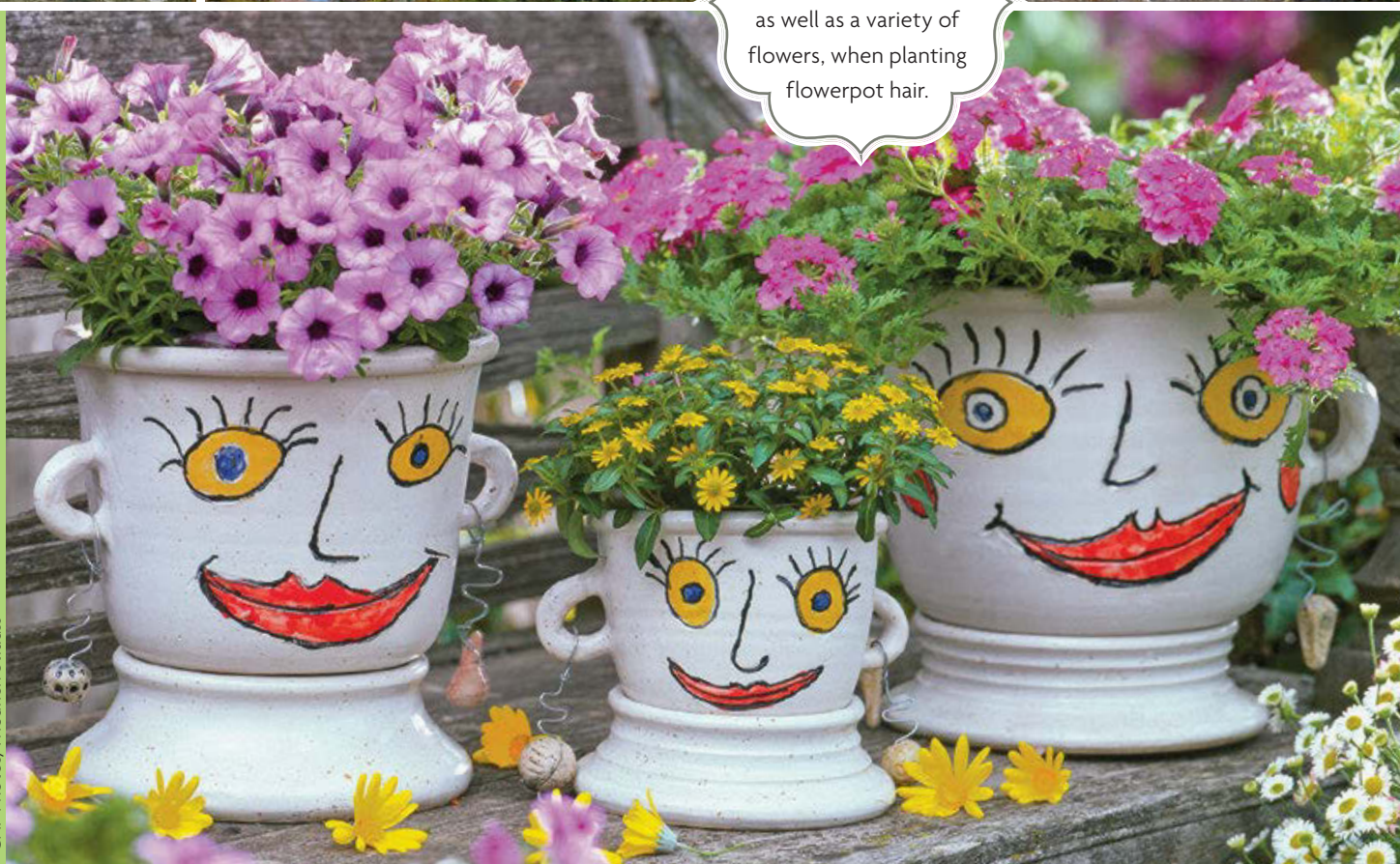


GAP Photos/Maxine Adcock

Play with different shapes and shades of greenery, as well as a variety of flowers, when planting flowerpot hair.

SUNKEN HEAD A bit of broken statuary gives the impression of an ancient treasure, *opposite left*. **TWO-FOR-ONE** These two hand-crafted head spouts go the spitting distance with color and wit, *opposite right*. **DIY** An artist painted a beautiful doe-eyed face on this ordinary pot, upping the artistic ante, *above*. **ANGEL FACE** Springy sedum completes the hairdo for this angelic stone pot, *above middle*. **MASK ON** Strappy grasses complement the lean lines of this African mask-inspired pot, *above, far right*. **HAPPY FAMILY** Bright flowers fill these fun hand-painted flowerpots, *right*. Simple smiley faces would work in a modern setting, too. **ABOUT FACE** This little fellow takes a bath as a spouting water feature, *below*.

GAP Photos/Friedrich Strauss



GAP Photos/John Glover, Design by Dennis Fairweather

Make it a family affair. Have your kids or grandkids each paint a pot face!



BELFLOWERS (*Campanula poscharskyana*) and hydrangea, and a stone bench with willow decorations, right, beckon next to borders of hydrangea, bellflowers, lavender, and rose campion.



wreathed

Wrap strands of pliable willow around a grapevine wreath to make a different pattern and texture that weathers to gray.

a touch of class

Feel at peace in a relaxing garden with inviting seating areas, flower colors in calming pinks and purples, and delightful details for visual enjoyment.

written by Deb Wiley
photography by GAP Photos/Elke Borkowski





Vary the heights of plants to create a more appealing look.

Sometimes when you step into a garden, the sight is so relaxing and beautiful that you let out a breath of contentment that’s almost a sigh. In this kind of space, you feel drawn in as if by a mysterious force that says, “Come here. Sit. Enjoy. Breathe.”

Enter this small-town garden on a brick path, and walk under an arch created by two hornbeam trees and through a wood slat gate that almost looks homemade. Take time to drink in the view and relax.

Making a peaceful garden doesn’t require special decorations or spectacular plants. It’s more a matter of how the space is used. The starting technique in this serene backyard—about 55x60 feet in size—is encircling the edges of the property with trees, shrubs, and other plants. Having a restful sense of enclosure lets a visitor’s eyes stop, creating a sense of being enfolded in a comforting space.

Using a repeating selection of plants adds continuity and a sense of sanctuary. Hydrangeas,

roses, hostas, and grown-from-seed hollyhocks dot the landscape. A variety of low and tall bellflowers lend a punch of blue-purple.


One surprise: the magenta blooms of a short-lived perennial, rose campion (*Lychnis coronaria* or *Silene coronaria*). Rose campion’s distinctive velvety gray leaves light up a garden space even when the flower isn’t in bloom. Some varieties come with lighter pink or white flowers.

In addition to the plants, the garden benefits from classic adornments, especially vintage wire or metal objects such as baskets, furniture, or lanterns. Like wicker, metal has both airy and organic qualities that feel at home in a quiet hideaway garden. Other garden art that enhances serenity includes light-colored stone or concrete finials, benches, and containers.

The homeowner weaves magic by using a tightly controlled palette of her favorite colors: pinks, blues, and purples. By employing only flowers that grow in

A COLLECTION of potted plants, *above*, plus perennials and evergreen shrubs create an easy-to-change grouping near the decked patio. **A PALE PINK** floribunda rose, ‘Astrid Lindgren’, *opposite, top left*, named for the writer of the Pippi Longstocking books, is hardy to Zone 4 and fairly disease resistant. If you can’t find it, consider ‘Eglantyne’. **ASTILBE PLUMES**, *opposite, top right*, sparkle in dappled shade near other perennials including tall bellflowers. **BISTRO AND BENCH** seating, *opposite, bottom*, welcome guests to a deck patio next to the pond. Potting the lavender makes it easier to control the sharp drainage needed to successfully grow it.





A PAIR of weather-resistant wicker chairs match the cushion colors to the foxglove and rose campion blooms near them.

A WEATHERED SHELF, *opposite, top*, makes a handy resting place for collections of small bits of garden art and potted plants, including pansies and succulents.

WIRE ART and the contemplative bust of a woman, *opposite, bottom*, create a pretty vignette on a bench.



YOUR COLOR QUEST

One of the most important components in creating a restful garden sanctuary lies in keeping the color choices in check.

USE COLOR THEORY to guide you. Blue, purple, white, pink, silver, and green are all hues associated with harmony, peace, meditation, contemplation, and tranquility.

ONCE YOU CHOOSE a color palette, stick to it. Adding one piece that doesn't fit instantly draws the eye and looks out of place.

TOO MUCH of one color may become boring. That's also true if you use all pastels or all saturated colors. Mix it up a bit.

REMEMBER THAT GREEN comes in at least 50 shades. Leaves and their textures add color.





varying shades of these hues, the garden appears to have a more cohesive, coordinated look. Limiting the number of flowering plants reduces visual confusion and increases harmony.

White is another welcome color that serves as a neutral. It works with every color scheme but is especially vital to a sense of tranquility. White flowers take on more importance later in the day, when light grows dim.

Various shades of green, ranging from the blue-green of hosta leaves to the grey-green leaves and chartreuse blooms of lady's mantle, add an overarching sense of calm. They effortlessly contribute subtle color tones to the landscape, too.

In only one corner of the yard does the owner allow herself to deviate from this color scheme, with an unusual, foldable white wicker arbor that sports

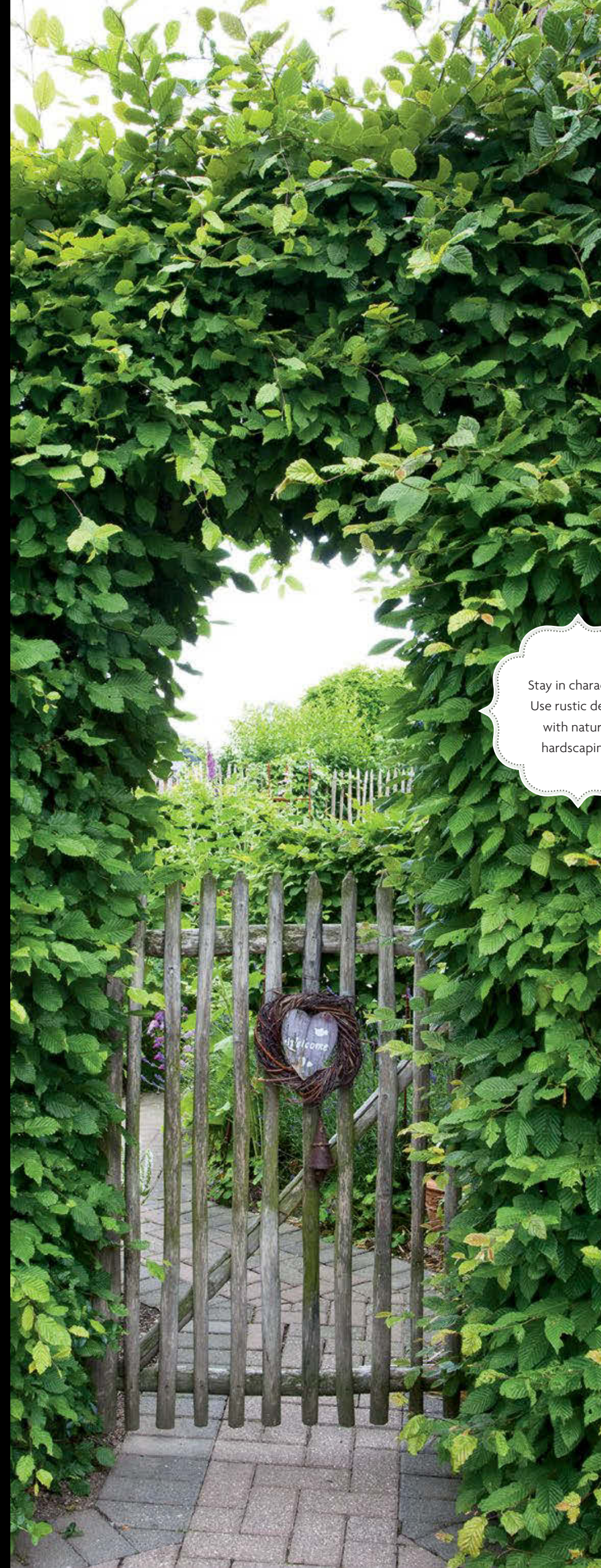
deep golden cushions. But even there, she pulls the look together by adding floral pillows in the signature hot pink colors found elsewhere in the yard.

And then there are plentiful cushions, an essential touch. Even the hardest surfaces in the garden, including a stone bench, are softened with padding covered in fabric colors that often pick up on the hues of the plantings nearby.

Not only do the cushions augment the overall color scheme, the mere sight of soft seating invites visitors to wander over to enjoy the views around them, perhaps sipping a cup of coffee or tea.

This is the type of garden to visit during different times of the day and throughout the year, watching how the seasons and light may change the view, but always feeling a little happier, a little calmer, and a little more connected to the earth.

THICK CUSHIONS AND BRIGHT colors, *above*, practically beg guests to come and relax next to a 'Sunburst' honey locust tree. The blue pot planted with hostas serves as a discreet focal point that keeps the garden's color scheme intact. **A PAIR OF HORNBEAMS** (*Carpinus betulus*) grow into a natural arch, *opposite, left*, framing the garden gate. **A RUSTY BELL** *opposite, upper right*, announces visitors, and the sign welcomes them. **ROSE CAMPION**, *opposite, lower right*, also called *Lychnis coronaria* or *Silene coronaria*, is a short-lived, self-seeding perennial hardy to Zone 4, with velvety silver leaves and blooms of rose, magenta, or white shades.



Stay in character:
Use rustic decor
with natural
hardscaping.



Sonoma

outdoor



FOLLOW THE TIMEWORN STAR to find a stylish still-life displayed on a wicker table inherited from the homeowner's grandmother. Pomegranate branches emerge from an old olive-gathering bucket. **BRIGHT COTTON RUGS** and plump pillows invite visitors to sit a spell on Michelle's freshly painted porch swing, *opposite*.

Living in wine country—and a longtime love of antiques—inspires the outdoor decorating style of this laid-back Californian.

style

written by Debra Steilen
photographed by Mark Lohman
styled by Fifi O'Neill



pillow talk

Give outdoor spaces welcoming personalities with performance fabrics (such as Sunbrella) that withstand the elements.

Furnished with rugs, pillows, chairs, and even a hammock, Michelle Lacy's front porch

welcomes visitors with open arms. "I treat my porch like an outdoor living room," says Michelle, whose old farmhouse once belonged to a winemaker. "But nothing out here is too precious. I don't use anything that would break my heart if it got damaged."

Luckily Michelle lives in temperate northern California, where her porch's deep overhang can keep out the rain. That's why the ardent flea-market shopper can mix antiques and heirlooms with pieces from Target, Cost Plus Imports, and IKEA—and leave them outside her sunshine-yellow front door. "I suppose my style is Bohemian flea market," Michelle says. "I think old things that tell a story are so much more interesting than just buying things that look like they came out of a set."

Where does Michelle find the old things she loves? Some are gifts from her mother: white wicker furniture and antique quilts, for example. "I might bring out old quilts on the weekends if friends are coming over, but I don't leave them outside all the time," she says. "My mom would kill me." Other vintage pieces come from the Alameda Flea Market and favorite shops. Each piece becomes part of the breezy laid-back style indigenous to Sonoma, where, Michelle says, "People are on their porches 90 percent of the year."



"Decorate with the things you love and your house becomes part of your story."



FRAMED BY VINTAGE

muntin windows, this end of the wraparound porch shelters a vintage chaise lounge and side table made of wicker, *above*. Yellow accent pieces echo the color of the front door.

A 3-D PEACE SIGN

made from wine-barrel components adds a Summer of Love flavor to the front porch, *far left*. (Michelle lives only an hour from Berkeley.) **SPONTANEOUS LAWN GAMES** often get inspired by the old croquet balls and miniature bowling pins filling a yellow enamelware bowl, *left*.

A photograph of a porch decorated with antique quilts, a hammock, a wooden barrel, and a potted plant. The porch has a light-colored wooden floor and a white railing. A white rocking chair is in the foreground, with a colorful patchwork quilt draped over it. To the left of the chair is a large wooden barrel with a small lantern on top. To the right is a large green ceramic pot with a plant. In the background, a hammock hangs between two trees. A white pillar is visible behind the hammock. The wall of the house is light green siding. A colorful abstract painting is on the wall. A black lantern is on the ceiling.

cloth clues

Ultraviolet (UV) rays fade fabric, old or new, so limit the time precious antique quilts spend outside in the sun.

SHADES OF SUMMER Michelle colorizes her porch with antique quilts and a favorite giclee canvas print. The tasseled hammock offers intriguing texture, as well as napping space for two adults. An old wine barrel makes a homey side table.

give it the brush



Photo by Mark Lohman

written by Deb Wiley

Painted accents and furniture not only help boost the color quotient in a garden but they're important elements that add visual homespun charm.

PAINT. Next to plants—and good design—it's a gardener's best friend. Especially if you mostly grow perennials, which may flower only for a week or two, colorful accents add interest in unexciting sections of your yard.

Flea market finds make the perfect recipients for a fresh coat of paint because you really can't go wrong; if you goof up or decide the color isn't quite right, just paint over the problem!

How to prepare the surface and which paint you choose depend on what you're painting and how well you want it to withstand the extremes of outdoor weather. To keep it looking fresh longer, sand and prime the surface before applying paint and sealer.

If you like a weathered look, paint right on top of the old surface, using sandpaper to wear off as much of the new paint as you wish. Remember that paint protects wood, so any uncovered surfaces will decompose faster. Sunlight and water also speed color fading, so place your garden accents accordingly.

A **PAINTED SHALLOW** bowl, *top*, serves as a birdbath and decorative element. Attach it to a post or pole for better viewing. **IF THE ORIGINAL COLOR** of an item isn't quite right, scrape off what you can, repaint in the color you want, then sand to achieve a weathered look, *right*. Over time, the elements will complete the job. **SATURATED COLORS**, like the warm pink shade used on the Dutch doors, *opposite*, attract more attention than paler ones.



Photo by Mark Lohman, Styling by Sunday Hendrickson



très chick

Turn a backyard chicken coop into a work of art with stenciled or freehand scenes that pop, yet blend into the landscape.

Photo by Mark Lohman



Photo by Mark Lohman

*Details make the difference.
The cute cat looks even more appealing
when surrounded by flowers and a
butterfly for it to notice.*



Photo by Mark Lohman, Styling by Sunday Hendrickson

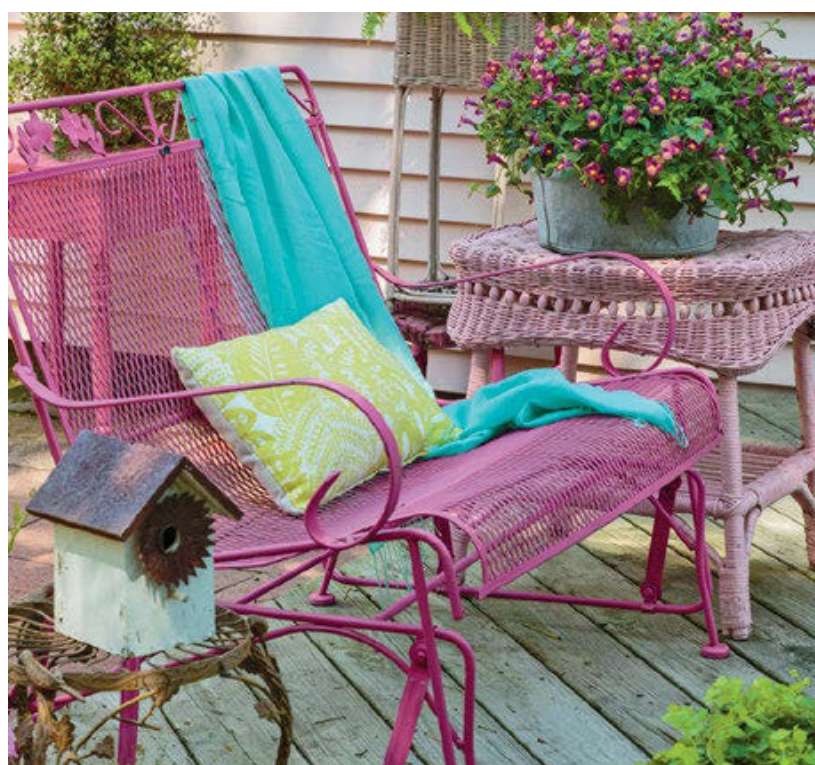



Photo by Mark Lohman, Styling by Sunday Hendrickson

FRESHEN A WATERING CAN with paint, then daub on a garden scene, *top left*. Slide a pot of annuals into the opening, using filler for support, if needed. **STENCILS HELP** when filling windowpane frames, *top right*. **FURNISHINGS** that didn't start as mates pair well when repainted in the same color family, *above*. **CAPITALIZE ON ELEMENTS** of whimsy that are already part of a piece, such as an elongated chair back, *right*.



Photo by Mark Lohman, Styling by Sunday Hendrickson



*Frame a view with a window
that's meant to stop the eye,
not draw it through.*

pane art

A standing painted window frame in a garden corner is a charming element on its own, but the scenes on the panes add the pizzazz.

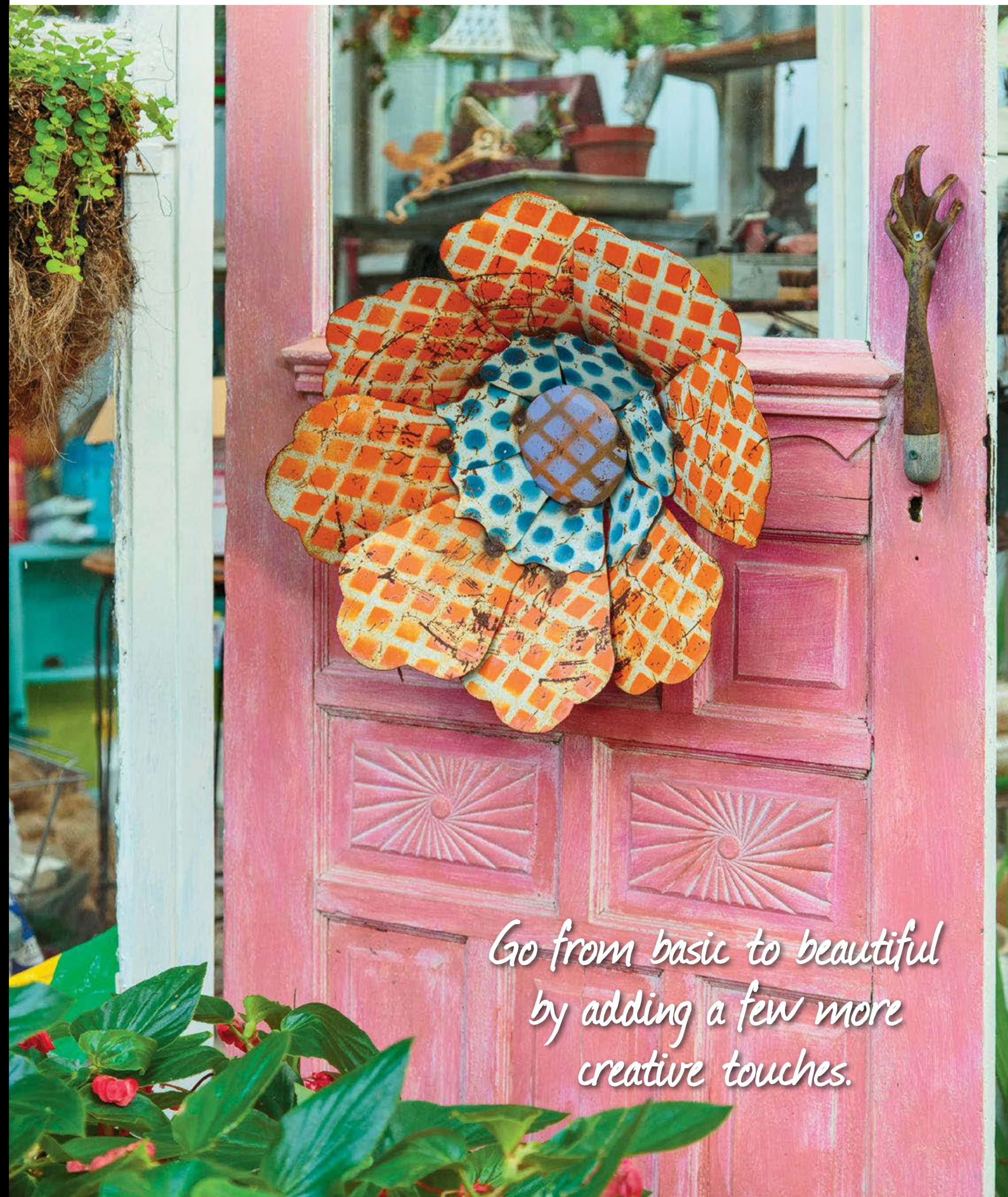


holder

Use wire cutters to trim the top of a discarded lampshade to use as a stand for pitchers, bowls, or other round objects.

Photo by Mark Lohman, Styling by Sunday Hendrickson

A GARDEN GUARDIAN stands tall with tin wings, salvaged boards, wire, sticks, spools, and paint, *top left*. **CANOE PADDLES** try life on land, arranged as a graphic fence, *top right*. **TWO ARE BETTER** than one, *above*. Pair related items, such as a birdhouse and small planter box, then integrate them with paint. **GET THE CORNER** on a great vignette, *right*. The horizontal slats of the table and chairs are enlivened with other colors, but it's wise to stop there so the look doesn't become jumbled.



*Go from basic to beautiful
by adding a few more
creative touches.*



potting haven

An antique corncrib gets new life as a potting shed in a riverfront garden.

written and styled by Charlotte Safavi
photographed by Robert Radifera

A PAIR OF CHIPPENDALE-STYLE GATES in AZEK® PVC, which looks like wood but doesn't rot, opens onto the garden's pea gravel path, *left*, as well as the four quadrants bordered with boxwood and planted with herbs.

ON A WORKING LEDGE in the potting shed sit herb seedlings and a decorative armillary sphere, *below*.

WISTERIA GROWS UP the side of the potting shed, *opposite*. For air and views, push-out windows were added in a rustic style befitting of the old corncrib. Hardy plants, including Knock Out® roses, were chosen for the microclimate.

When redoing the historic house, the architect [Jon Braithwaite] and I noticed a nineteenth-century corncrib on the property. We wanted to reuse it somewhere and thought it would be a grand idea to turn it into a potting shed," says interior designer Jamie Merida, who owns Bountiful, a home decor and flooring business in Easton, Maryland (bountifuldecor.com).


Landscape designer Geoffrey C. Stone of Notting Hill Gardens (nottinghillgardens.com), who had designed and was maintaining the Eastern Shore property's gardens, came up with a formal herb, cutting, and vegetable garden for the homeowner on the riverfront, with the corncrib being featured and repurposed as a one-of-a-kind potting shed.

"The inspiration was to create a garden that worked on the waterfront, was formal and usable, and tied into the existing onsite architecture," says Stone, who installed a 1000-square-foot parterre in the European style.

"I not only repurposed the corncrib as a potting shed, but I utilized the Chippendale-style fencing and red brick details, borrowing historic





A large, weathered stone urn sits atop a three-tiered square pedestal in a garden. The urn is filled with a dense, rounded green shrub and smaller purple flowers. The pedestal is surrounded by a circular bed of green plants with small yellow flowers, bordered by a ring of red bricks. The garden is set on a gravel path, with a white picket fence and a body of water in the background.

The plinth and urn
have an auto-watering
feature drilled into
and running
through them.



BOXWOOD AND PURPLE PETUNIAS grow in the urn; the annuals are switched out yearly, *opposite*. Below is lantana 'Bandana', which sometimes survives the winter and sometimes does not.

SWEET POTATO VINE adds a dash of chartreuse to the flower boxes mounted beneath the potting shed's windows, *above left*.

A SEAT BENEATH a crape myrtle tree allows a place to pause when gardening, *above*. The tree park is mottled and pretty in winter.

THE GARDEN sits back from the picturesque views of the Tred Avon River on the Eastern Shore in Maryland, *left*.

THIS SOLID BRONZE STAKE adds interest to a garden niche and can be moved around as needed, *below*.



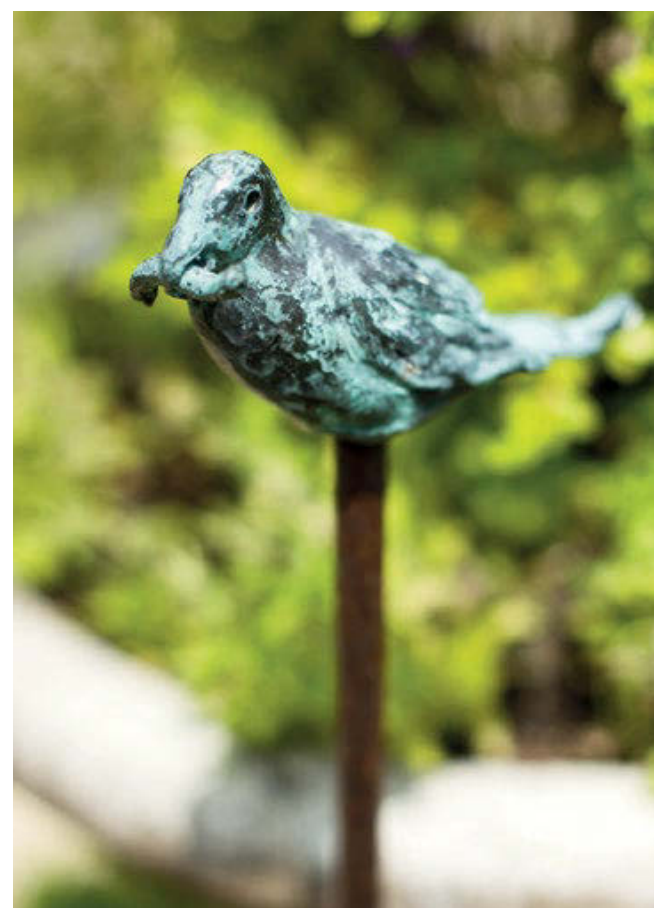
architectural elements from the main house," adds Stone.

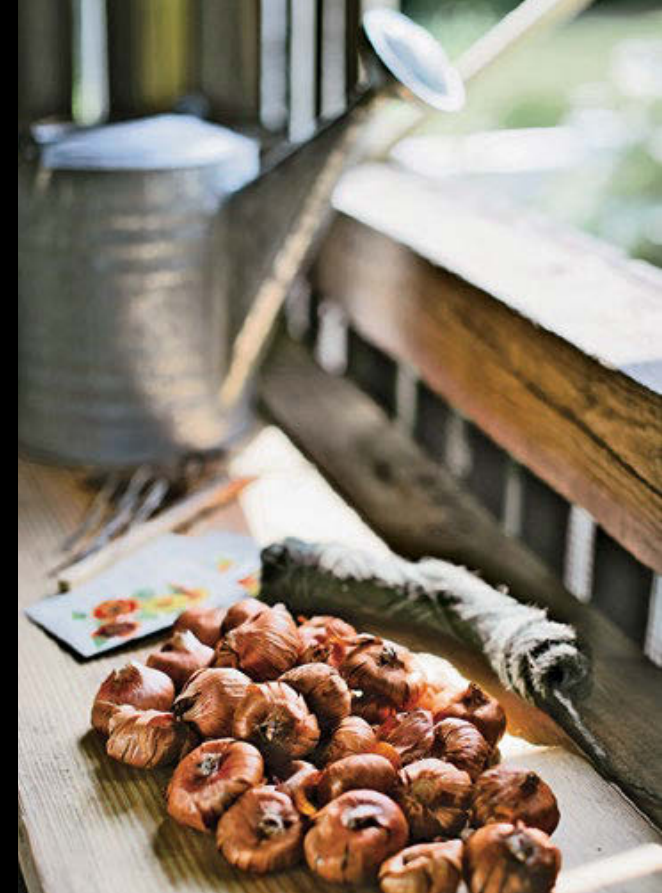
Reusing the corncrib involved moving it to the selected garden site on sleds. Stone slabs found on the property serve as steps leading to its entrance. All the rotted wood was replaced, including trusses and beams, and then a new roof was put on for waterproofing. The open slatted body was left alone. Meanwhile, push-out windows were also added to the structure, as well as electricity for task lighting and the use of small power tools.

"Our aim was always to preserve its character, and everything we did tied in to its original, rustic, old look," says Stone.

The garden now lays out in four identical quadrants, surrounding a planted centerpiece urn on a plinth. A mix of perennials and annuals lend it color and beauty year-round. The homeowner is delighted with the parterre, where she likes to pick vegetables, snip herbs, and cut flowers.

"The corncrib made such a quaint feature. The homeowner can store her tools and putter around in it, while enjoying the beautiful views right outside the windows," adds Stone.





GLADIOLA BULBS and seed packets sit next to a vintage watering can on the working ledge along the window wall, *left*.

HERBS ARE FRESHENED UP and added to seasonally, providing a fresh flow into the kitchen, *right*.

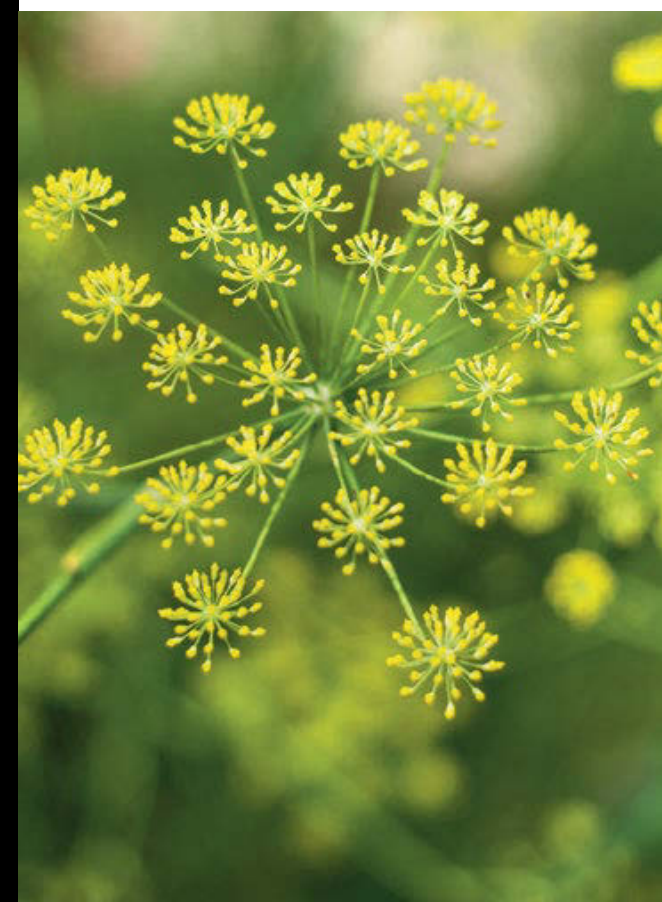
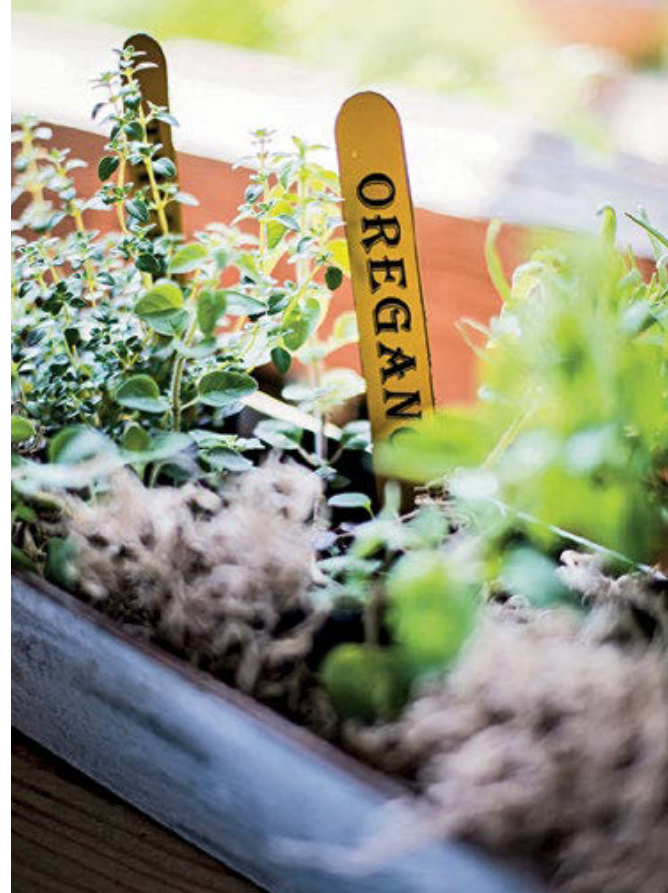
DELICATE DILL MAKES a show of starburst yellow color when going to seed, *below left*.

DECORATIVE GLASS watering orbs sit in a pot on a shelf when not in use, along with other accents and practical odds-and-ends, *below*.

AN EGGPLANT RIPENS in the vegetable patch contained within the garden, *below right*.

GARAGE STORAGE components fit into wire mesh on the walls, creating instant storage for tools, *bottom left*, so that the shed stays organized.

COPPER LIGHT PENDANTS imported from Europe lend task lighting and are an attractive indoor/ outdoor element, *opposite*.



CONVERTING A CORNCRIB

"I like to work with existing architecture, and to recycle and repurpose structures when I can," says landscape designer Geoffrey C. Stone. Here are his suggestions:

RELOCATE GENTLY Move the chosen structure to the intended new site without damaging it. The intent is to preserve as much as you can.

REPLACE THE ROOF Unless it has a good roof, which is unlikely, put on a new one in keeping with the main house's architectural style for continuity.

REBUILD ROT Go through carefully and replace any rotten wood, whether siding, beams, flooring, or trusses. Rebuild in a similar style to the original.

ADD WINDOWS If there are no windows, pop in a couple for ventilation, natural light, and connection to the outdoor scenery.

PUT IN STORAGE Build in shelving and a work ledge; add hooks for small items.

WIRE IT Lighting is good for the outside and inside, and adding electricity also makes the potting shed functional for small tool usage or an electric or ceiling fan for working on warm days.



high way

When adding built-in storage, go as high as you can with shelves, and add hooks for hanging things.

*"We didn't clean
the corner up much.
We liked its patina."*



entertain *your way*



1



2

Photo by Aniko Productions, anikoproductions.com, Styling by Shannon Quimby, shannonquimby.com

written by Debra Wittrup

Feed the joy of alfresco dining with food, flowers, friends, and fresh air—
all with a flair that suits your style.



Photo by Lulu Tapp



GAP Photos/Friedrich Strauss

1 retro luncheon

Combine a love for midcentury collectibles, colorful flowers, and easy entertaining to create a charming get-together.

MAKE A RUNNER Cut a length of burlap as long as your table plus 28 inches. Make photocopies of your favorite flower pictures. Determine the best placement of images, then tape the images together. Using a decorative edger, punch the edges of the strip, *opposite, bottom right*. Lay your burlap in the center of the table and top with your runner.

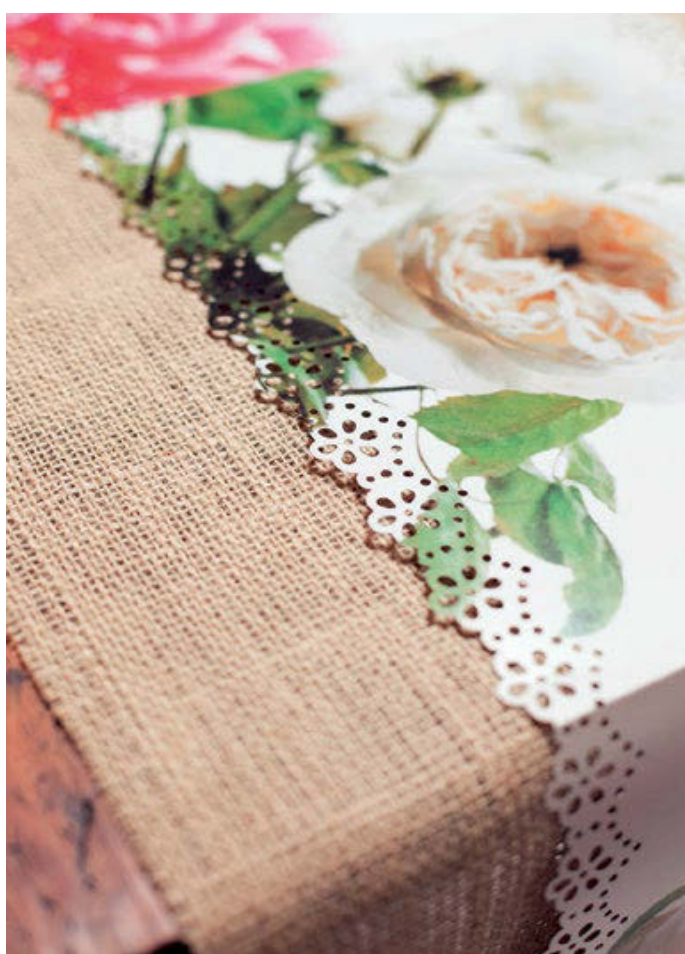
CREATE A CENTERPIECE with milk and Depression glass. Place pansies and other small colorful plants in glasses. Insert tapered candles in tall skinny milk-glass vases. Add water and cut flowers to short and tall vases, *below*. Place everything randomly down the center of the table.

COVER CHAIRS with vintage tablecloths, *below right*. Drape the cloth over the chair. Gather the ends of the cloth to the center of the chair back. Wrap a rubber band around the ends and thread a long piece of ribbon through the band. Tie the ribbon around a small floral vase.

SET THE TABLE with a place setting for each chair, *opposite, bottom left*. Stack different sizes of Depression glass plates, add mismatched drinking glasses and silverware.

Color-coordinate
your flowers with
your linen patterns
and collectible
glass hues.





A rustic farm table and burlap runner bring texture and character to the more refined lines of linens, milk glass vases, and Depression glass dishware.

2 French fete

With nature as your palette, think of an alfresco party as a way to paint a pretty picture in the style of the French Impressionists. Here are some tips on getting your brushstrokes right.

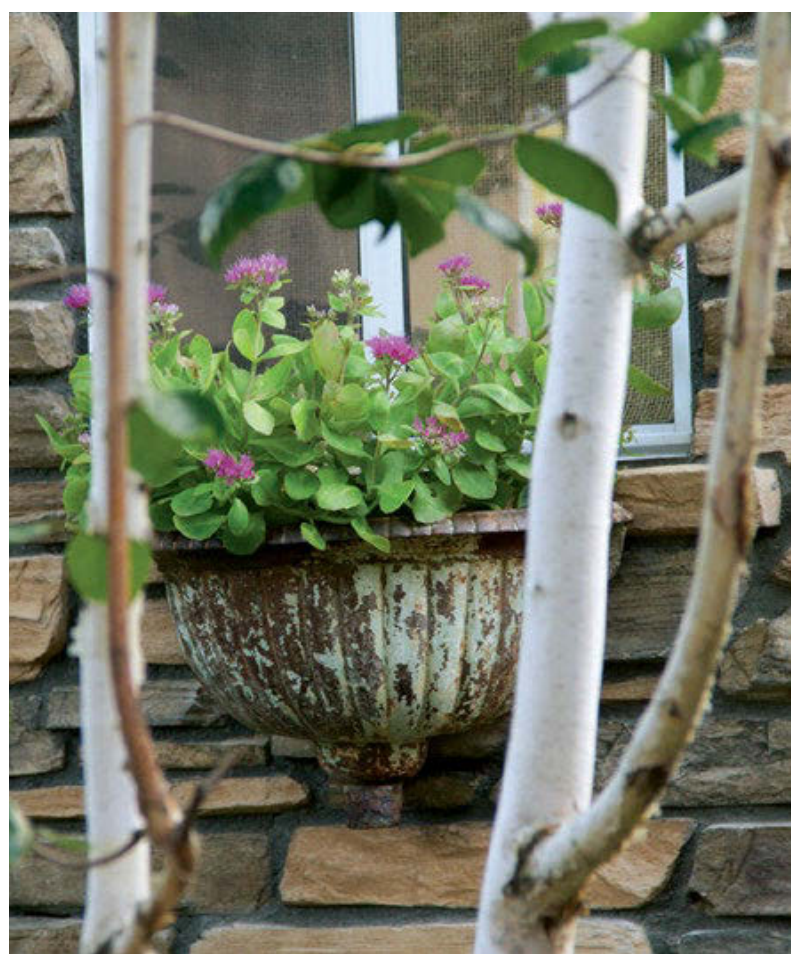
DECORATE THE TABLE simply, with masses of white flowers in a galvanized tub and in pots around the party area.

OFFER DRINKS with a self-serve attitude. Serve flavored water, wine spritzers, or a signature cocktail in a beverage dispenser. Keep bottled beverages in an ice-filled cistern.

FOR A LARGER CROWD, stack heavy earthenware dishes buffet-style, tuck white cloth napkins in an old metal tray, and place heirloom or collected silverware in heavy glass jars. Set up an extra surface for food service. Have plenty of seating available, *right*.

CREATE AN ARTFUL AMBIANCE. An outdoor affair becomes even more festive when the area surrounding the table is as decorative as the place settings, *opposite, bottom right, and below right*.

ELEVATE ELEMENTS on the table to create an arresting display. A vintage French drying rack lifts mugs above footed compote dishes and cake pedestals, *below*.

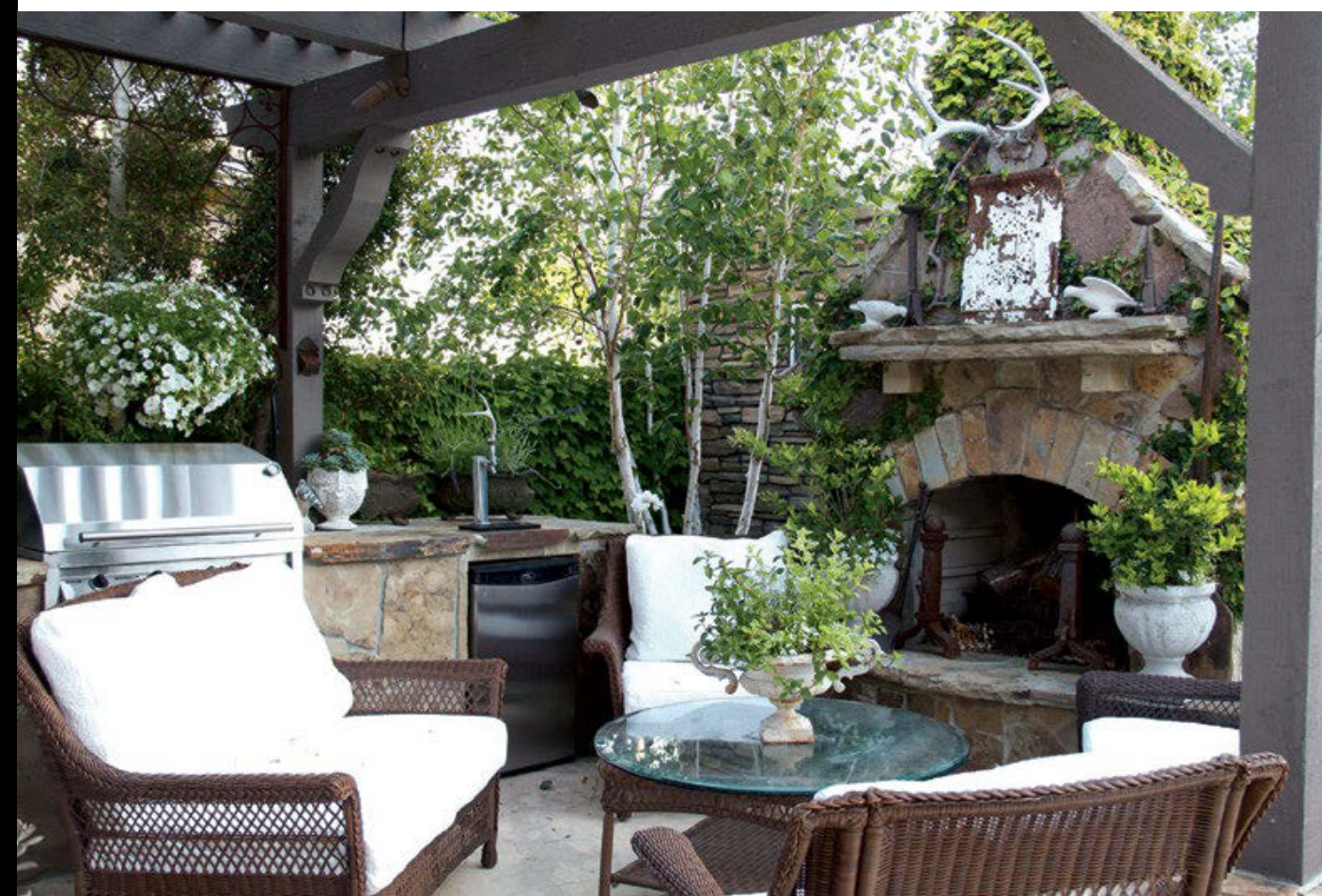


good look

Keeping everything in a limited palette of white, green, and silver puts more of the focus on the beauty of textures and patina.



Remember that a daytime event will feel more like a garden party, an evening one, more dramatic. Accent accordingly.





Mismatched vintage furnishings, flea market accents, and classic cotton fabrics are hallmarks of easy-breezy cottage style.



3 cottage repast

Bring out favorite flea market finds, cafe linens, bistro chairs, and homegrown cut flowers to freshen up outdoor dining options.


CHILL WINE in ice baths in large galvanized tubs, *top right*. Float heirloom rose blossoms and petals in the water.

USE COORDINATING LINENS. This fresh-faced party works because of striped, checked, and gingham vintage linens used as tablecloths, table runners, basket liners, and seat cushions.

MISMATCHED CHAIRS bring charm and visual variety to the table. Though all are different, they're all open-back bistro chairs, providing a stylistic unity, *right*.

ROMANTIC LIGHTING adds an intimate atmosphere to a small outdoor gathering. Pillar and votive candles placed in heavy glass jars will illuminate the tables as darkness falls. Fill the bottoms of the jars with sand to keep candles steady, *opposite top*.

DECORATE WITH GARDEN FLOWERS. Keep an eye out for vintage aluminum, tin, and enamelware pails. Use different-size containers in a cluster, each filled with blooming buds, for a centerpiece, *above*.



Simple foods like
Caprese salad,
antipasto platters,
and baguettes whet
appetites.

*Zippy red zinnias star
in arrangements with
snapdragons, strawflowers,
and mums. They perk up
tables and pick up on the
red striped, checked,
and gingham linens.*



get cozy

Furnish for comfort and
your guests will be ready
to party all evening
long. Provide thick seat
cushions on chairs and
shawls for evening chills.

Beautiful bouquets

Equal parts charm and grace, even the smallest bouquet imparts a breath of fresh air. Show off your bountiful blooms in vintage vessels.

written by Debra Wittrup



fresh fix

For a festive spring or summer table, set drinking glasses filled with the same flowers at each place setting.



n

Nothing lights up a room, indoors or out, like fresh flowers. And it needn't be a formal affair; trims from the backyard always look best in a casual outfit, so skip the crystal vase and opt instead for a vintage container, like an old olive oil tin or vintage lavender glass bottle. When the grocery store blooms replace your garden blossoms, it invites a little more planning. For a conventional arrangement, once you've chosen your vessel, the rule of thumb is that your tallest flower should be no more than 1½ times the height of the vessel—but it's even more important to create your composition based on where it will reside. Since even the hardiest of blooms only lasts so long, place displays where they're visible at standing height, so they can work their alluring magic on residents and guests. The exception is, of course, for a table centerpiece. If your bouquet will remain on the table during the meal, keep it under 14 inches high so that it doesn't obstruct conversation across the table.

RESCUE ME This pretty still life with pink Primula 'Sweetheart' illustrates how flowers with stems cut too short or those with naturally short stems can be rescued by setting them adrift in a small vintage bowl, *opposite*.

PITCHER THIS For a perfect pairing, grab a handful of fresh cuts from the garden, such as these vibrant pink tulips, hold them like a bouquet, snip the bottoms, and plop into a pitcher.

rosy idea

Set fragrant displays of fresh blooms near entryways and gathering spaces for a scent-sensational first impression.



GAP Photos/Suzie Gibbons



Sandra Cunningham/Stockfresh

FLORAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Assemble a display of floral-pattern china and an ironstone jug according to height to make a one-of-a-kind centerpiece. Contrast deep pink roses and carnations with chartreuse achemilla mollis, *opposite*.

GREEN AND GORGEOUS

To fashion an arrangement in a garden-theme old tin, start with larger blooms, like these zinnias, then fill in with greenery and dainty flowers, like dill and nicotiana, *above*.

BLOOM TIME Take a water-filled container with you into the garden and snip, collect, and arrange all in one spot, *above right*. Here, billowing peony blooms fill a vintage canning jar.

BOXED IN Trim a small piece of floral foam and tuck it into an old cheese box lined with plastic wrap, *right*. Trim stems of roses, mums, daisies, and sea holly as needed to sink into foam in a pyramid shape.

Photo by Chris Hennessey





Photo by Chris Hennessey

LUSH LIFE Big wine-color dahlia blooms create a dramatic look, *left*. Yellow daisies and blue sea holly fill in the spaces in an arts and crafts-style pitcher.

CAN DO If you're creating arrangements that you want to match specific color palettes, craft your own range of vases with aluminum cans, *below*. Wash out the cans with hot, soapy water, spray on a vivid coat of paint, and fill with flowers when dry.



Photo by Chris Hennessey

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Pick up what the floral pros use and then practice, practice, practice for picture-perfect arrangements.

FLORAL FOAM makes the base for composed arrangements and is sold in bricks that you can cut to size.

GREENING PINS are essential for securing greenery and moss to foam, whether in arrangements or wreaths.

FLORAL SHEARS have a blade specifically designed to avoid crushing stems when they're being cut.

WATER PICKS have snug, perforated tops to secure stems placed in their water reservoirs.

FLORAL WIRE can be twisted around stems to strengthen or lengthen them and is great for securing items to wreaths.

BONSAI OR IKEBANA SHEARS have small, sharp blades that are ideal when bouquets or topiaries need tweaking.

FLOWER FOOD extends the life of fresh cuts.

NEEDLE-NOSE PLIERS spare fingers when twisting wire.

FLORAL TAPE hides wiring and staking and also works to bind multiple smaller stems into one large one.

FLORAL STAKES come in different lengths. Use them to support fragile stems or heavy fruits in an arrangement.



Photo by Greg Scheidemann

A still life arrangement of white-themed summer florals. In the center, a white ceramic pitcher holds a bouquet of white daisies, yellow alchemilla mollis, and tall white linaria. To the left, a white ceramic bowl is filled with large white roses and yellow alchemilla mollis. To the right, another white ceramic pitcher holds a bouquet of white roses and yellow alchemilla mollis. The arrangement is set against a vintage lattice backdrop. The entire scene is set on a white lace tablecloth. A text box in the upper right corner provides styling tips.

eye candy

Create a focal point with a grouping of florals in a limited color palette backed by a textural vintage piece and grounded by old lace.

GROUP DYNAMIC A white-themed summer floral arrangement of roses, alchemilla mollis, linaria, delphinium, marguerites, begonia, and sweet peas appears to float amid a unified grouping of white ironstone vessels.



Chickadee gardens

written and photographed by Janet Loughrey landscape design by Tamara Paulat

A Pacific Northwest gardener transforms her small urban yard into a lush, sustainable landscape that is friendly to birds, insects, and other wildlife.



When Tamara Paulat attended an open house at the Audubon Society of Portland in 2009, she experienced a life-changing epiphany. “I was struck by how much wildlife populations have been impacted by human development. I also realized that I could do something to help,” she says.

The Portland, Oregon, neighborhood where Tamara and her husband, David Pinson, reside is near a large park with an abundance of wildlife. Their home, a two-story 1929 Spanish Colonial Revival, was named “Casa de Los Tres Gatos” (House of Three Cats), a nod to their love of Mexican culture and their resident felines. Much of the original garden consisted of ornamentals such as peonies with little value to wildlife, and invasive spurge, butterfly bush, and buttercups.

Tamara began studying native plants in earnest, learning which ones would support wildlife yet also have ornamental and multi-seasonal characteristics. “Natives have a reputation for looking somewhat boring in the landscape. I wanted to create a garden that was beautiful as well as environmentally friendly,” she says.

She also familiarized herself with the five main points of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program (backyardhabitats.org). They are: wildlife stewardship, stormwater management, eradicating invasive plants, introducing natives, and eliminating the use of pesticides.

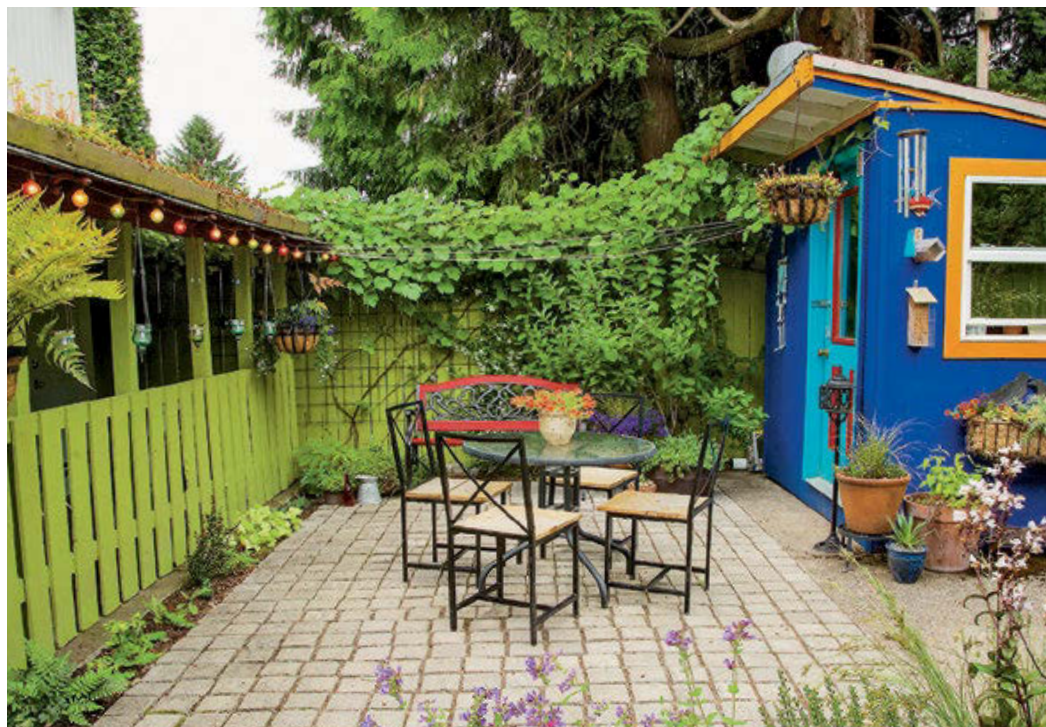
When the garden renovation began in 2010, much of the small back yard consisted of a large concrete slab. The concrete was broken up and

removed, then replaced with a spacious patio made of stone pavers to allow greater permeability. Toxic railroad ties used as edging were also discarded. The same style pavers were used to create meandering pathways that redefined the borders and connected the house to the garden. Hardscaping and outdoor furnishings were selected to harmonize with the home’s exterior.

Two eco-roofs built to careful specifications on top of the garage entry and garden shed help reduce runoff and filter pollutants. The clay soil was amended with gravel to improve drainage, and beds are mulched with several inches of compost every fall to replenish nutrients.

THE GARDEN SHED, *opposite*, was revitalized with bold colors inspired by trips to Mexico. A cracked birdbath was repurposed and now is used as a shallow sedum garden.

RETRO-STYLE WOODEN FENCING fencing that encloses the backyard garden, *below*, was painted a soft green hue to blend with the surrounding foliage.



Plants without sustainable value were replaced with new cultivars, which were sited according to microclimates of sun or shade. Borders were designed in color schemes to unify the garden. White-flowered cultivars light up shaded areas, while vibrant hues of orange and lavender adorn sunny spots.

Since the garden was completed, Tamara has seen a marked uptick in the bird and insect populations. She was recently rewarded with the discovery of a Monarch butterfly caterpillar on her common milkweed. The endangered insects are especially rare in the Pacific Northwest.

To chronicle the yard's progress and her own learning experience, Tamara started a blog called Chickadee Gardens (chickadeegardens.blogspot.com), which has garnered a large following. She realized the power of communication to educate and began opening her garden for special tours so that visitors could see the remarkable results firsthand. "When someone gets excited about an unfamiliar plant, that's an extremely gratifying moment for me," she says.

The purpose that Tamara found in sharing what she learned with others was an unexpected side benefit. "It seems like one person can't make a difference. But if everyone did just a little bit to help wildlife in their own yards, it would go a long way towards making a positive change," she says.



CAT LIKENESSES, such as this figurine nestled among sedums, *above*, are a running theme in the garden.

LUCY AND HOBBS, sibling Bengal cats, *right*, are only allowed outdoors when supervised to protect visiting birds.

INEXPENSIVE PARTY LIGHT STRINGS and solar globes, *below*, lend a festive flair, illuminating the garden at night.



An eco-roof helps regulate temperatures seasonally. To make it even more environmentally friendly, construct with salvaged wood and plant with divisions of succulents and sedges from other parts of the garden.





*"Inspiring others
to landscape
for wildlife is
the ultimate
gratification."*

fine foliage

Use groundcover
sedums to edge borders
and leafy plants such as lady
fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)
for soft green background
accents.



A FELINE SCULPTURE made from recycled metal, *above*, was acquired at a silent auction to benefit a local cat shelter, another of Tamara's passions.

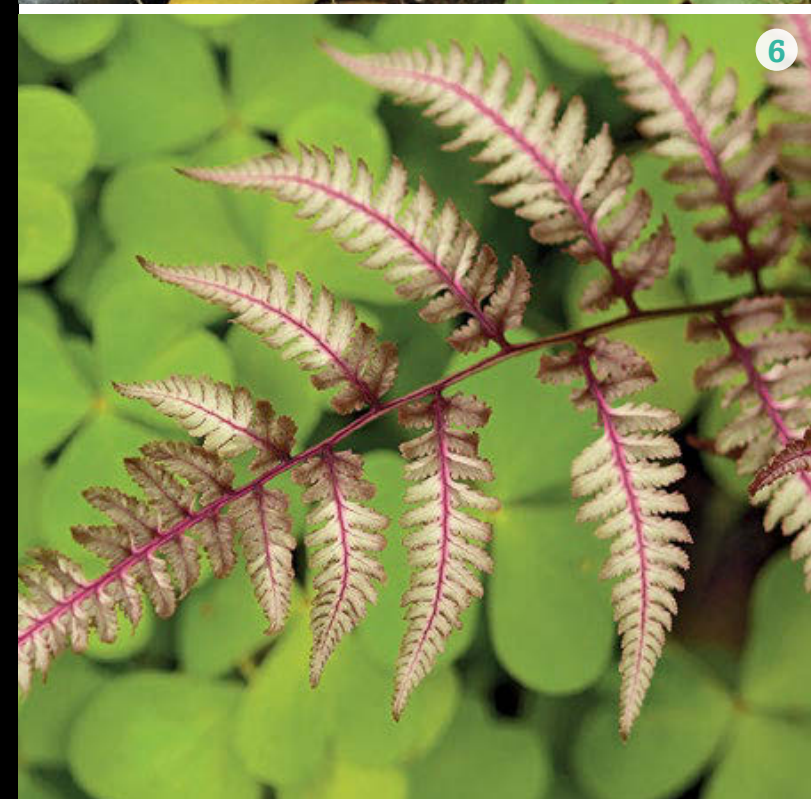
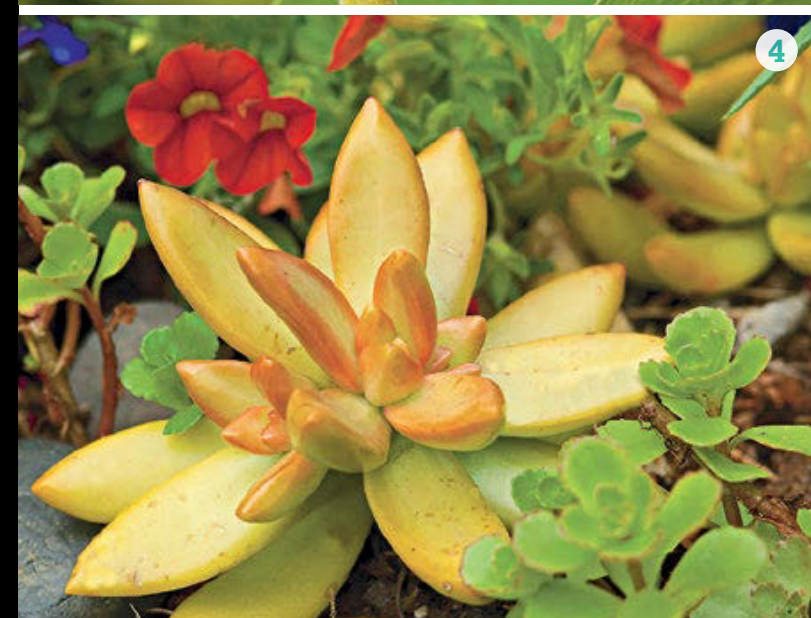
A MISTER connected to a hose, *right*, emits a soft spray of water on hot summer days, inviting hummingbirds and other feathered visitors to cool off.

ORANGE IS THE COLOR theme of this bed, *below*, planted with coral bells (*Heuchera* 'Marmalade'), hybrid foxglove (*Digiplexis*) and orange sedge.



born again

Inexpensive used bricks and stone pavers for paths and edging can be found at recycling websites, garage sales, and rebuilding stores.



TAMARA'S PLANT PICKS

Though the focus in Tamara's garden is on natives, almost half of her plants come from other regions. Ornamental cultivars must be noninvasive, benefit wildlife, and have multi-seasonal interest. Groundcover succulents are a favorite for their evergreen foliage, bee-friendly flowers, non-aggressive growth habit, and use as edging plants.

1. COBWEB HOUSELEEK (*Sempervivum arachnoideum*) is named for the web-like threads that course over the gray-green rosettes. Clusters of red star-shaped flowers that bloom in summer add to the intrigue of this hardy, drought-tolerant succulent.

2. WESTERN SPIREA (*Spiraea douglasii*) grows wild along streams and ponds in much of the western U.S. Other than regular watering, this upright shrub needs little maintenance once established. The fuzzy pink flowers produce nectar for butterflies.

3. COMMON MILKWEED (*Asclepias speciosa*) is one of many species of milkweed that provide food for Monarch butterfly larvae. The decimation of milkweed through farming and urban growth is largely responsible for the endangerment of Monarch populations.

4. COPPERTONE STONECROP (*Sedum nussbaumerianum*), a showy succulent treated as an annual in colder climates, is best in a rock garden with sharp drainage or combined with other plants in containers. The bronze foliage is most intense in full sun.

5. WESTERN CONEFLOWER (*Rudbeckia occidentalis*) is found in high-elevation mountain meadows in the western U.S. The flowers, notable for the large cones and inconspicuous petals, attract bees and butterflies, while the seeds provide food for birds.

6. JAPANESE PAINTED FERN (*Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum'), a popular ornamental shade garden plant, is framed by a soft backdrop of native redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*). The contrast of color and shapes makes this a particularly striking combination.

7. BROADLEAF STONECROP (*Sedum spathulifolium*) and rosy pussytoes (*Antennaria rosea*) make an engaging duo of perennial native groundcovers. When in flower, these reliable drought-tolerant plants are attractive to bees and other pollinating insects.



Personalize a lackluster landscape by turning salvaged junk into decorative garden decor.

timeworn treasures

written by Debra Steilen



Put your flea-market mastery to good use by transforming a garden-variety yard into an artful landscape. Here are some tips for transforming cast-offs into outdoor decor.

PRIORITIZE PATINA. Salvaged objects that are already rusty, chipped, or cracked have little else to fear from the elements. That's why they merge gracefully into alfresco settings. They'll make sure your garden is visually interesting even after plants have lost their blooms or died back into dry, brown stems.

THINK 360 DEGREES. Keep visitors engaged by displaying tag-sale treasures at different levels within the landscape. Tuck yard-sale finds into flower beds. Dangle a shabby chandelier from a tree branch. Showcase old frames against a privacy fence. Such visual surprises slow visitors down so they can appreciate what you've planted.

MARK THE SPOT. One shapely form can call attention to a favorite garden feature. But think what you can do with matching flea-market finds! Use them to mark an entry or announce the transition from one part of the garden to another. (Think of the stone lions in front of the New York Public Library.) Likely suspects include old bicycles, pedestal sinks, or even birdhouses on posts. Let your creativity be your guide.

HIDE A DAMAGED SEAT with a pretty pot of mop-head hydrangeas, above. **ADD SWEET ELEGANCE** by hanging a cast-off glass chandelier festooned with roses, below left. **DANGLING CRYSTAL DROPLETS** sparkle in the sun. Leafy vines wind their way around the framework left behind when the fabric disintegrated, below. **DECORATIVE GLASS** and ceramic objects unite to create art that's part garden fancy, part totem pole, opposite.



GAP Photos/Juliette Wade



Photo by Mark Lohman; Styling by Fifi O'Neill

high minded

Add another layer of interest to the garden with vertical statuary. Use it as a tool to draw attention to—or away from—a specific area.



Photo by Andrea Caughey



Photo by Mark Lohman

Think of flea-market finds as "art supplies" that can give your garden a signature look.

THERE'S ALWAYS TIME to linger in a garden. Prove it by displaying an ornate wrought-iron tabletop with added-on clock features, **top, far left**. **LOOSEN UP** a straight-laced fence with a gallery of timeworn treasures, **top, center**. **GIVE A SHED** spiritual character by adding a Gothic arch stained-glass window, **top, right**. It reinforces the feeling of sanctuary many people feel in their gardens. **TRANSFORM A DAYBED** into a garden bed by lining the frame with burlap and landscape fabric, adding potting soil and easy-going plants, and then tucking excess burlap around them to keep things stable, **left**. **GIVE A GARDEN** urban airs with an upright door and a bench for passersby, **opposite**.

Conceal bare dirt beneath garden features with a tall lineup of flowers.

Photo by Mark Lohman



screen time

Turn multiple doors into a privacy screen by attaching them to each other with hinges. Leave a small gap between doors to allow movement.

Jazz up a plain door by adding faux panels made from molding. Cut pieces with a miter box, attach to the door with outdoor adhesive, then paint.

Keep a rickety old vehicle stable by sinking its wheels halfway into the garden earth. Remove the engine to create a container garden with an urban edge.



GAP Photos/Steven Wooster; Design: Knightsbridge School-Chelsea 2012



Feeling creative? Edge your beds with thrift-shop plates, recycled wine bottles, or even bowling balls.



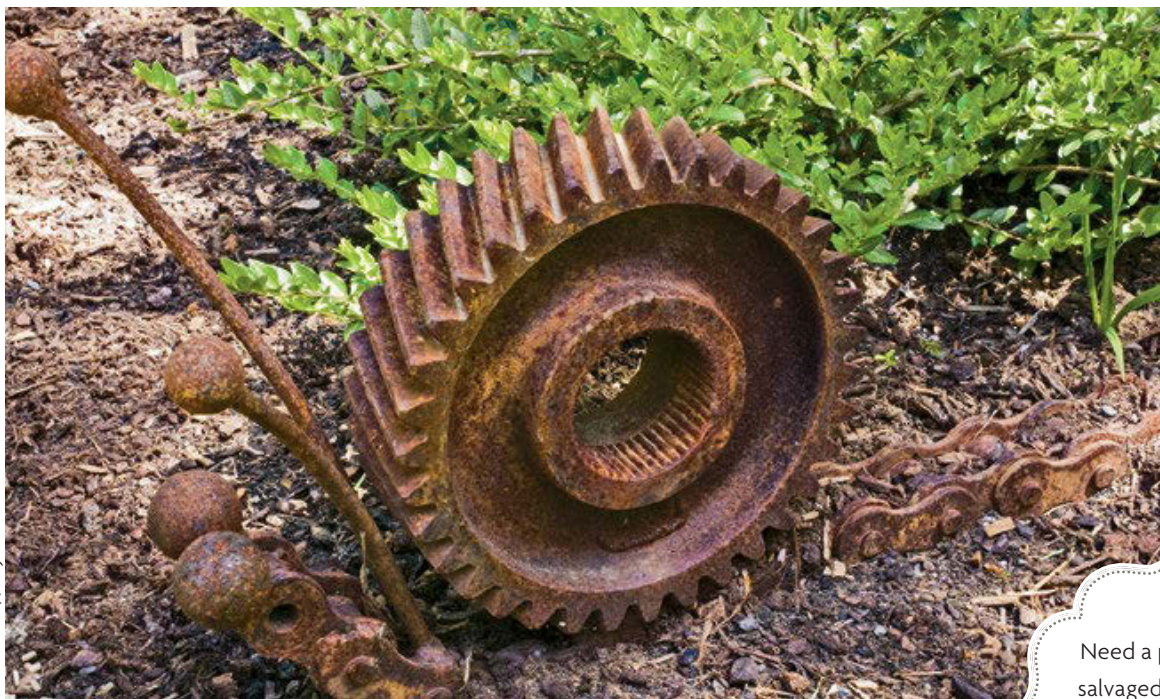
GAP Photos/Michael King

DITCH THE ENGINE of an old car and you end up with plenty of room to develop a lush container garden, *top left*. **EMBED LICENSE PLATES** in the ground to create border edging that's auto-matically eye-catching, *left*. **TURN A PLAIN BRICK WALL** into a garden-related poetry jam with

colorful mix-and-match metal signs, *above*. **SALVAGED ODDS AND ENDS** from long-ago factories generate an oversize snail when carefully arranged in fresh loam, *opposite, top left*. **RUSTED COMPONENTS** are welded together to make a spiky sunflower that reaches for the sky, *opposite, bottom left*.

Caruth Studio

GAP Photos/Jerry Pavia



Need a pro to turn salvaged metal into art? Look on Yelp under "welding" or "ironwork."



Photo by Diane Guthrie



Photo by Diane Guthrie



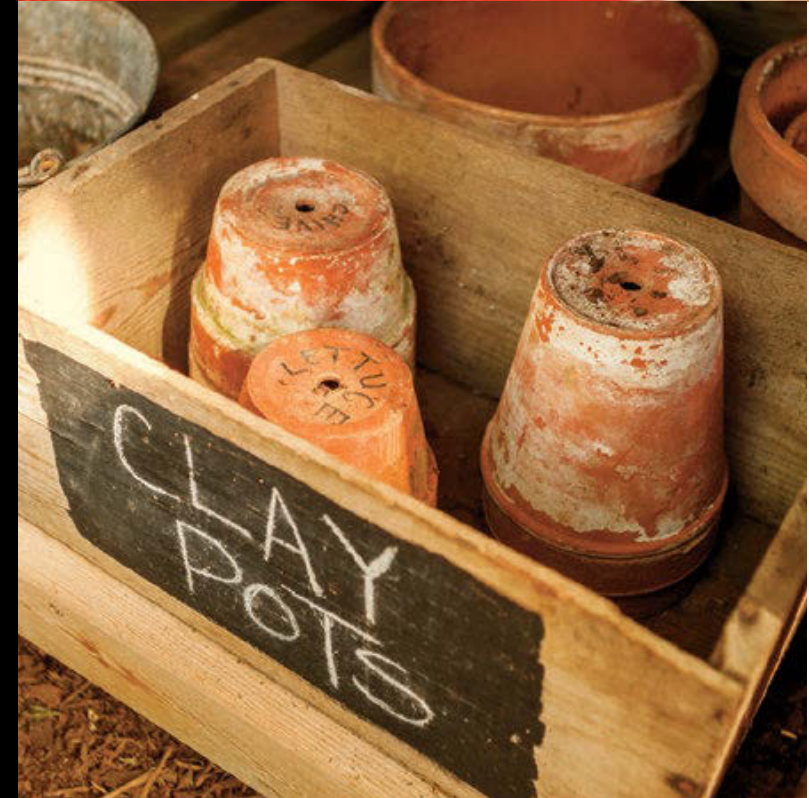
Photo by Diane Guthrie



Photo by Mark Lohman

CORRODED METAL accents add character to a plain birdhouse built of reclaimed wood, *above right*. **TOPPED WITH** a Godzilla-size gear, this fearsome metal sculpture adds height right where you need it in a garden plot, *top right*. **FOREVER IN BLOOM**, a painted machine part hangs from the twisted top of a rusty metal stem, *far right*.

Stick to salvaged wood when building homes for your feathered friends. An all-metal house gets too hot in the sun to keep birds and their eggs happy and healthy.



fun in the country

written by Donna Pizzi photography by BlackstoneEdge.com

A Washington state artist and shopowner puts her paints and green thumb to work transforming a dilapidated 1920s farmhouse and muddy acres into lush Little Hill Farm.





RECYCLED WOOD makes a sturdy goat shed, *opposite, top left*. Painted an eye-catching barn red, it makes a cozy home for a pair of Billy goats like Rooney and Tilley. **MAKE A CLAWFOOT POND** Fill a tub with water, *opposite, top right*. Insert a tube in a pipe, attach a watering can spout, install a fountain pump, bury the cord in soil, then add pond plants, fuchsia, floating baubles, and a verdigris frog. **VINTAGE FARMHOUSE TOOLS**, *above*, are at the ready when hung outdoors on a pegboard. **CHEERY SIGNAGE** hung from a fence post, *top right*, features Little Hill Farm's thematic checkerboards and polka dots that herald fun times found amid vintage, repurposed, and reusable indoor and garden items. **A FENCE FLOWER BOX**, *right*, planted with cascading red verbena and mini red and orange petunias, is fashioned from an old metal sink and features a concrete artichoke wedged in the dirt. **BARN RED PAINT** ties house, *below right*, with barn, goat, mule, and llama sheds. English and Grosso lavender grow alongside a bed of variegated vine and camellia bush. A galvanized pot on a post hosts an evergreen and lobelia. **POLKA DOT-PAINTED RIVER ROCKS**, *below*, entice guests to play checkers. **TRI-COLORED TRIM**, *opposite, bottom right*, crafted from handcut cedar triangles overlaps, starting with red trim, followed by white triangles and finally a green rail. **A RECYCLED BIRDHOUSE**, *opposite, bottom left*, features miniature tools, a rusty wheelbarrow, and old metal roofing. The red, white, and green house and window trim echoes the nearby shop at Little Hill Farm. **CLAY POTS**, *opposite, left, middle*, are stored upside down in the greenhouse and labeled with chalkboard paint—perfect items for recycling and reuse.



W

When Jona Thomson and her husband, Scott, purchased this dilapidated 1920s farmhouse in McCleary, Washington, in 1990, they took homemade movies of it and the property. “It was a very dark and dreary December,” recalls Jona. “I was pregnant with Tate and had our 2-year-old son, Dillon.” Looking at those films today makes Jona cringe. “It was horrible! The grungy, stained linoleum and brown shag carpeting. Outside, there was nothing but mud, trash, and tires everywhere!”

But the land held promise. “I was imagining all the fun we could have creating outbuildings,” says Jona. “The framework for my shop came from an old shed that was here, which we stripped for its beams. Everything we did from the very beginning was to reuse, renew, recycle.”

When the cottage got new windows, the old ones became a greenhouse for wintering over Jona’s geraniums and handcrafted topiaries. Several coats of red barn paint turned the former multi-colored house into a cheery place. An added porch displays reusable vintage farm tools and children’s Adirondack chairs in which to sit and enjoy the setting sun.

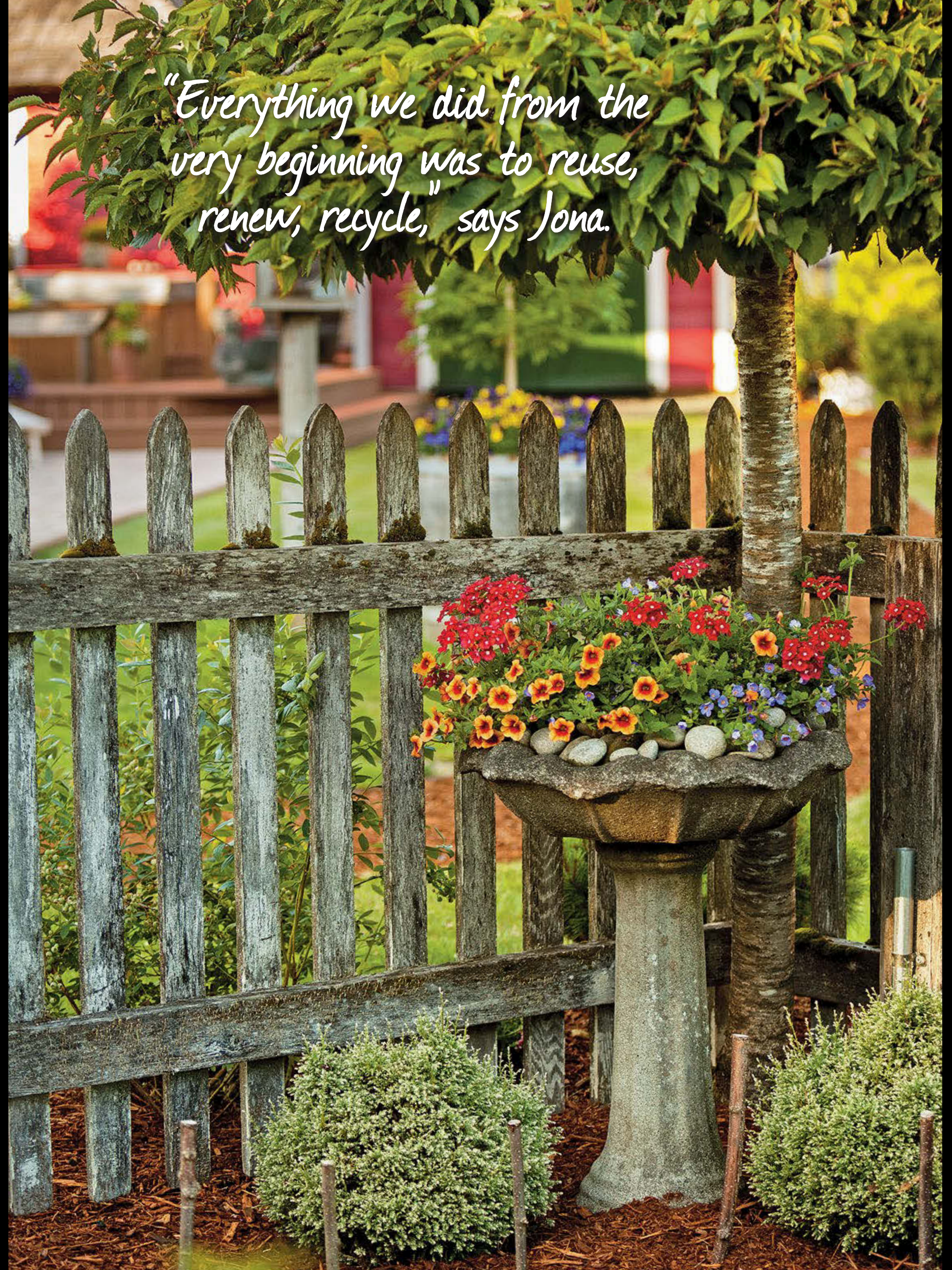
“When I told Scott I wanted to turn the claw-footed bathtub the former owners used as a feeding



BARN WINDOW BOXES are planted with slow-growing evergreen shrubs and hardy sedums, top. **WHIMSICAL HANDPAINTED SIGNAGE** trumpets the joy found at Little Hill Farm, where thematic checks, topiaries, and farm animals are pictured, above. **FOUNTAIN ENVY** begins with a variegated hosta, grasses, Johnny-Jump Ups, fuchsia, and a bucket of water lettuce, left. **SALVAGED MOSSY FENCING** encircles a planted birdbath, opposite, evergreen blueberries, and variegated bowling balls beneath a weeping cherry.



"Everything we did from the very beginning was to reuse, renew, recycle," says Jona.





trough into a fountain, he just looked at me and said, ‘What?’” They made it work.

As a shopowner, Jona has expanded her passion for old farm items in various directions. “That’s what’s fun,” she says, “if I find something I can’t part with, it becomes part of our place. For example, I use the black ladder that’s against our house as one of my tomato trellises. The Sun Golds I planted there grew to window height this year!”

Scott, a skilled carpenter, builds the vintage-style outbuildings with Jona’s assistance. The couple got permission from a nearby farmer to tear down his old barn and recycle the wood to build her shop. They rescued its windows off a burn pile on a trip to Aberdeen. “We happened to see a guy carrying an early 1900s window with glass around to a burn pile he was about to light. We loaded them in the truck and only had to replace two panes,” says Jona.

The shop provides plenty of ideas for repeat customers who come four times a year to spend time on the idyllic property. “I’ll have hot cider or iced tea, and they’ll wander up to play checkers, or just socialize with one another.” Most items are for sale, including the caged plants that adorn the shop, wire window boxes, topiaries in various vintage

AN OLD GRAIN SCOOP becomes a downspout for the rainwater barrel below. The barrel is home to floating water hibiscus, a fragrant purple flower that blooms for a month, yet each bloom lasts only a single day, *top*. **A FORMER TOOL CARRIER** became a planter, overflowing with lobelia, *above*. **WOODEN SLATS** fasten these DIY beadboard shutters together, *opposite*. Use a jigsaw to cut out stars.

mossy pot

Fill a wire hayfeeder with moss, then plant with colorful hanging plants such as verbena, lobelia, or ivies. Water as needed.





LEMON CYPRESS or boxwoods in vintage clay pots or old galvanized buckets make fanciful topiary art, *left*. Use small clippers for trimming. White potato vines rise 20–30' to beautify ordinary posts. **ARTIST JONA THOMSON** enjoys a rare moment of freedom on her old apple tree swing, *below*. **JUST FACE IT** Whimsical shutters with silhouettes cut into them add a fun touch to the yard, *opposite*.

farmhouse containers or handpainted signage.

The only existing outbuilding worth salvaging was the pump house, which supplies water to the house. New cedar shingles replaced the rotted ones. The hazelnut bushes that border the dovecote provide straight, strong branches for various garden uses: either airy fencing for the pump house ferns, garden trellises, or border guards to keep the variegated bowling ball plants at bay beneath the once-leaky birdbath turned pedestal planter.

A heavy-duty farm sink purchased at a yard sale found multiple uses when installed in the outdoor patio off the pump house. Jona washes garden vegetables in it, cleanses dirty hands, and even washes Kirby, the family dog, there.

When a pair of vintage green barn door-painted shutters stole her heart, but not Scott's, she told him to think of the cutouts as silhouettes of their children, or of her and Scott! Apparently, it worked.

An amazing outcome of this journey, says Jona, whose garden was featured in the 2014 WSU Master Gardens of Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties, has been seeing their early cost-saving techniques become a family ethic. "We were forced at first to reuse many things, we banged crooked nails to make them straight. Now, even our kids have become fighters to save the planet. Our motto is, 'Wear things out! Reuse as much as you possibly can! Save it and store it until it can be used for something else.'"





*"Our motto is, 'Wear things out!
Reuse as much as you possibly can!
Save it and store it!'"*



cottage **FRESH**

A homeowner creates an old-fashioned
cottage garden that gives back
vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

By Charlotte Safavi Photographed and styled by Mark Lohman



picket fence

A pretty fence adds separation between the herb garden and vegetable beds, while offering a classic cottage feature.

LUSH HERBS AND BRIGHT FLOWERS grow with abandon in the cottage garden. The quaint potting shed, as well as a birdhouse swathed in trumpet vine, add further charm.



ANN'S ELDEST GRANDCHILD Kate sits with family dog Cooper on a woven-wicker swing beneath a pergola covered in grapevines, *left*. **ZINNIAS ADD PUNCHES** of vivid color and long seasonal flowering to the garden, *below*. **WHITE WISTERIA IS TRAINED** to grow up the side of the potting shed retrofitted with French doors, *opposite*. A concrete basket-shaped planter brims with petunias, while adding yet another cottage feature.



Homeowners Ann and Jesse Dare bought a new house in Layton, a small town outside Salt Lake City, Utah, and set about creating a farm-inspired cottage garden that feels like it's always been there.

"I grew up gardening," says Ann, recalling her childhood in Washington State, with a father who ardently gardened his half-acre backyard to grow fresh food for his family. "My dad had everything in his garden: apple trees, cherry trees, boysenberries, raspberries, all kinds of vegetables and herbs. I guess gardening is in my blood. As children we had to work out there, so maybe that has something to do with it."

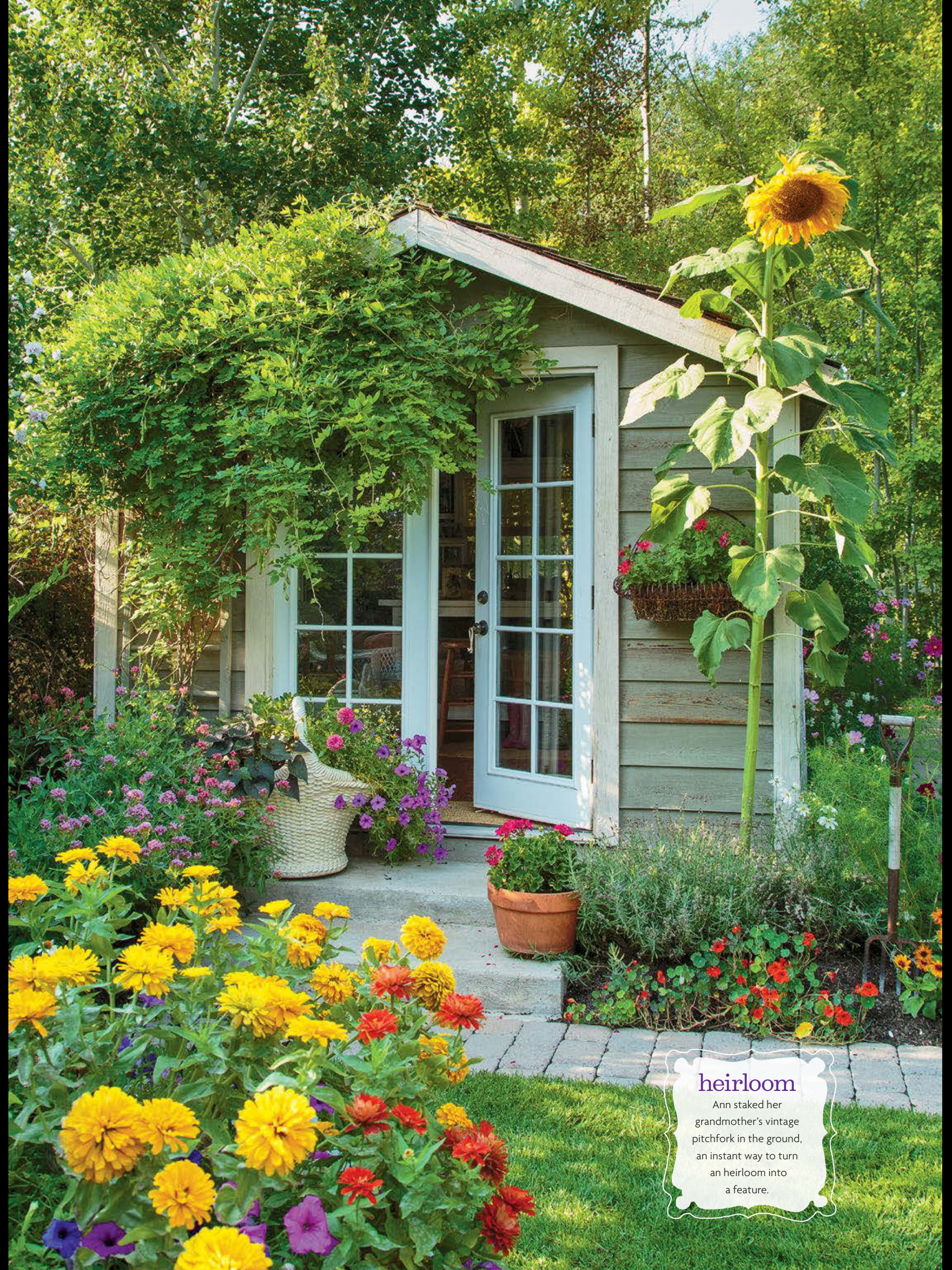
When Ann and Jesse first moved into their home, the yard was dirt and lawn, with an ugly white vinyl fence around it. Their plan was to put in a vegetable garden, and then design a cottage-style herb garden complete with a potting shed. Though Jesse doesn't

like to garden, he likes to make things, so the partnership was perfect.

"The ground was useless for gardening—full of clay—so we decided to put in four 8-by-16-foot raised beds for growing things," says Ann. "I had to put a lot of compost and manure into the soil to make it better for actually planting a garden."

The raised beds soon began to yield all kinds of vegetables, including string beans, carrots, zucchini, tomatoes, potatoes, and more. Jesse also built a chicken coop, so Ann could raise some chickens, and they could enjoy fresh farm eggs. They currently have three chickens.

"But I also wanted a backyard that looked more 'cottage' and pretty," says Ann of the next big project, which was to create a bed for the herb garden, and add a potting shed. "My son and his friend cut out all the grass and made a big circle,



heirloom

Ann staked her grandmother's vintage pitchfork in the ground, an instant way to turn an heirloom into a feature.



*"I love the chickens running around the yard;
they're fun to watch."*



which I then divided into four quarters and started planting," she reports.

A decorative armillary now sits in the middle of the herb garden, which grows a variety of herbs, taller ones in the center, spilling out to groundcover near the periphery. Sage, chives, marjoram, thyme, and yarrow fill the bed. Ann, who loves colorful flowers, layered in lots of brightly hued zinnias, black-eyed Susans, coneflowers, and petunias.

"I wanted a particular kind of potting shed," says Ann of the final garden feature, continuing, "not the kind for putting a lawnmower in. I wanted a place to keep the gardening things I love, a place to sit and spend time, as well as a place to pot flowers."

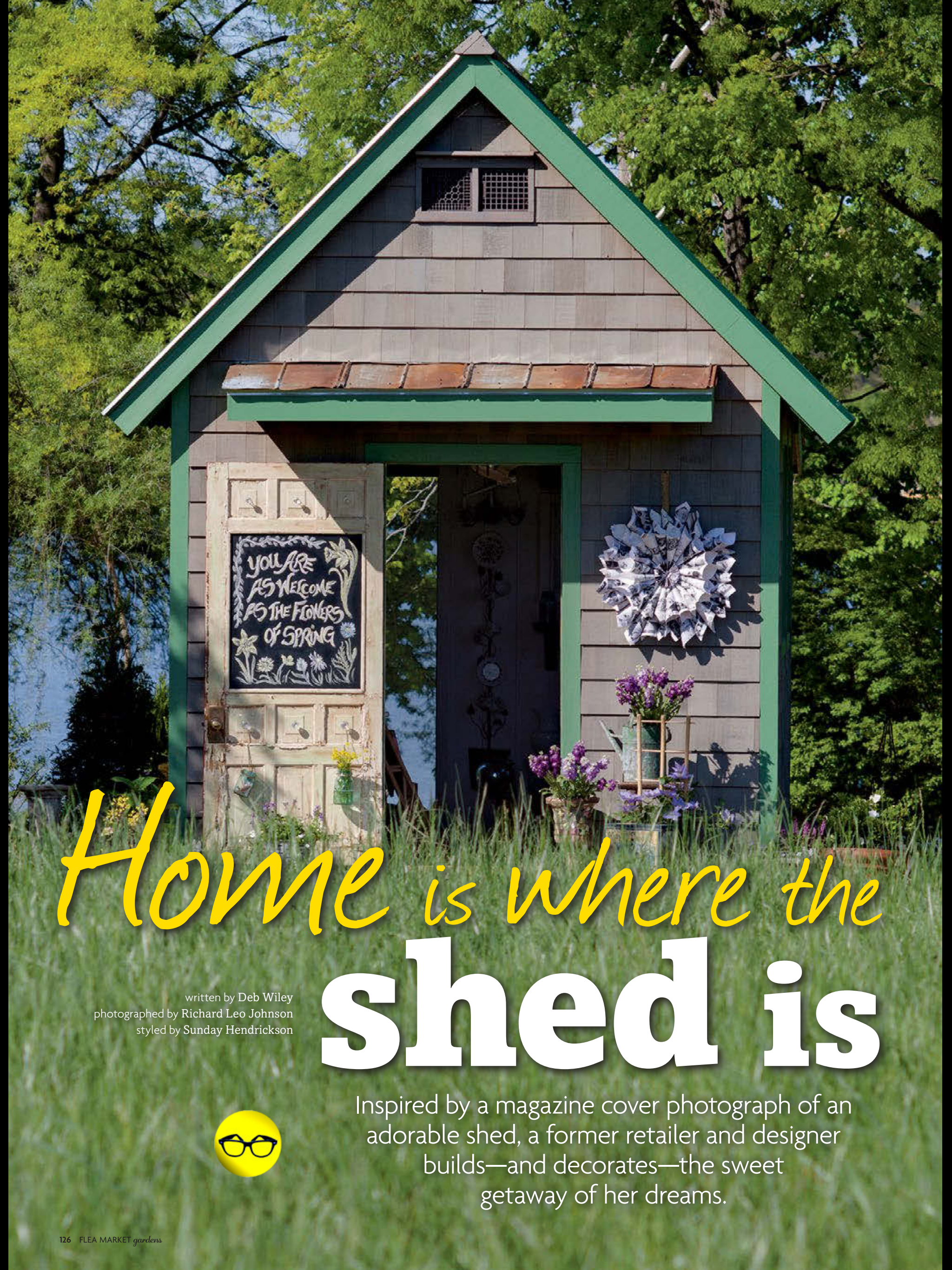
Jesse bought a shed-making kit from Home Depot and the couple upgraded it to have that charming

cottage look, with glass-paned windows and French doors, as well as with window boxes brimming with flowers. Ann keeps an antique table and chairs inside, a glass-fronted bookcase with her gardening and chicken-raising books, and a potting ledge.

To finish off the design, a picket fence now separates the herb garden from the four vegetable beds (and contains the chickens when they're ranging in the garden), and concrete cobbled pavers connect the different parts of the backyard for ease of movement and aesthetics.

"I love the way the garden looks and feels," says Ann. "We've really accomplished something. I enjoy having fresh food and flowers. It's good therapy working the garden. I wanted my kids and grandkids to experience all that too, like I did growing up."

AN OLD WHEELBARROW serves as a planter-on-wheels that's moved around as needed to import big splashes of color to non-blooming areas, *opposite*. **KATE PETS ANNABEL** the Orpington hen, *top left*. Other chicken breeds include Americana and Gold Sexlink. **JESSE BUILT THE CHICKEN COOP** for the feisty egg-layers, *top right*. There is also a rabbit hutch on the property.



Home is where the shed is

written by Deb Wiley
photographed by Richard Leo Johnson
styled by Sunday Hendrickson



Inspired by a magazine cover photograph of an adorable shed, a former retailer and designer builds—and decorates—the sweet getaway of her dreams.

SHAKE IT New shake shingles stained gray present a weathered look that serves as a perfect neutral for any accent colors, *opposite*.

GROUP ON An assemblage of trays, plates, and architectural salvage results in a textural grouping over an old dresser. A row of flower-filled silver pitchers adds bright color.



rescue me

Rehab an old dresser for shed storage. Give it a new coat of paint, distress the finish a bit, and add pretty knobs.



A **TERRARIUM** once held plants but now serves as an ever-changing venue for seasonal vignettes, such as this bird theme, *left*.

THE SHED is only 10x16 feet, offering about 4½ feet of work area between the long sides, but it seems bigger thanks to the the clever use of space.



When Mary McCachen, a 20-year veteran of retail sales, decided to take a break, she couldn't quell the urge to create. In early 2012, Mary spotted a charming shed on the cover of a garden magazine, and she simply had to recreate the look.

"I've always gravitated toward gardens and potting and had always wanted a place like this," says Mary, who lives along a lake about an hour north of Charlotte, North Carolina. "I'd been talking about doing it for years."

By that fall, the 10x16-foot shed was finally under construction. "After years of planning, perusing magazines, and procrastinating, I have a potting shed under construction; a belated milestone birthday gift, more thrilling to me than a trip or shiny piece of jewelry!" Mary wrote on her blog, *homeiswheretheboatis.net*.

Since then, the shed has become a showcase for Mary's decorating and cooking inspirations, changing to reflect seasonal interests.



*"I just did it for me,
to have fun. It is a playhouse,
really, for puttering and
playing and blogging."*



The shed construction was a blend of new and old, mostly new, says Mary. The pink cast of the new cedar shake shingles was quickly aged by a couple of coats of semi-transparent gray stain. Two \$12 salvaged doors, one on each end of the shed, were planned with ventilation in mind since the windows don't open. The exterior of the doors was painted brick red, with the interior sides kept neutral white to match the walls.

To increase the charm factor, Mary splurged on two leaded glass windows for the front of the shed and added a pair of vintage \$15 posts gussied up with old corbels to the tiny front porch. Rusted metal for the roof—\$3 per panel—was painted green to match the shed trim.

Inside, the plywood floors were stained the same neutral color as the porch floor. For a tidy yet aged look on the walls, Mary applied just one coat of paint over the spruce boards so the grain and knots would still show through.

Mary designed two workbenches, each 4x2 feet on top. "I wanted a work surface that would be functional, easy to clean, economical, and not look too finished," she explains on her blog. "I found a sheet metal shop that does HVAC duct work to cover my plywood counters with galvanized sheet metal and attach a backsplash. The cost? Just \$75, and done in one day."

Below the workbenches, Mary hung floral café curtains to hide implements and necessities like potting soil. Instead of curtains on the windows, Mary softened the look with yards of landscape burlap draped over tree branches hung above frames.

For more storage, she refinished her grandmother's Pepto Bismol-pink dresser. "It has a lot of sentimental value," Mary says. With a coat of Chalk Paint® followed by a bit of sanding, the pink undertone shows through without overpowering the piece. New, mismatched drawer pulls add a funky touch of whimsy that complete its transformation.



BUILD A VIGNETTE in blue, *opposite, top left*, starting with odd numbers of inexpensive blue bottles (five, in this scene). Layer in other items with touches of blue, which, here, includes a book, oval plate, ceramic pots, and antique pruners.

GO VERTICAL when filling space, *above right*. Mary's years in retail taught her that this is valuable real estate. A wooden ladder adds extra height and storage.

POTS OF PLANTS and cut flowers adorn the shed, even though Mary does little actual potting there, *above left*.

FORKS STAMPED with the word "herbs" add interest to pots of thyme and dill, *left*.

MARY ELEVATED a small urn on a stack of garden books, then filled it with birdseed to go with a bird vignette, *right*. A tea towel draped over the back of a chair reinforces the theme.





TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Decorating your own shed? Try these ideas that Mary McCachen gleaned from years in retail.

PROTECT WINDOWBOXES or antique display boxes by lining them with plastic to shield the bottoms and sides. Place pots of flowers on top of the plastic, covering up empty spaces with moss, burlap, or other material.

FIND A SECOND USE for almost any item that suits a garden theme or purpose. Collect, stack, fill, and move elements around until they seem to “fit.”

FILL THE SPACE inside a wreath with a vintage tray, half of a bird cage, garden art, or other element to add impact.

PAINT IS YOUR FRIEND. Hate the Pepto-Bismol pink color of your grandmother’s dresser? Paint it, then sand off enough to let some original color show through.

Now that she’s had more than two years of playtime in her shed, Mary has enjoyed the versatility of the space—and the chance to use many of the things she accumulated over her retail career. “I just have a lot of stuff,” she admits, happily.

It’s also a space where you really can’t go wrong when it comes to decorating, which makes it the perfect laboratory for someone who likes to experiment. “I’m not afraid to make a hole in the wall and try something,” she says. “If I don’t like it, I move it. It is a potting shed, so it doesn’t have to be perfect.”

Almost every item does double or triple duty, depending on the season. Blue Milk of Magnesia bottles that simply look pretty on their own may get pressed into service as flag holders for the 4th of July or as small vases for cut flowers.

Window boxes or vintage seed boxes may, depending on the calendar, hold pumpkins and gourds, Christmas ornaments and greenery, or an assortment of blooming annual plants.

A terrarium that once grew plants now serves as a pretty cover over seasonal arrangements.

A key component in the changing of the look is on the inside of the back door. In place of a missing window, Mary painted a board with chalkboard paint. She uses this surface (cleaned with a soft cloth and WD-40 to prevent the ghosts of the previous quote) to express herself with a quote and a bit of artwork that always seems just right:

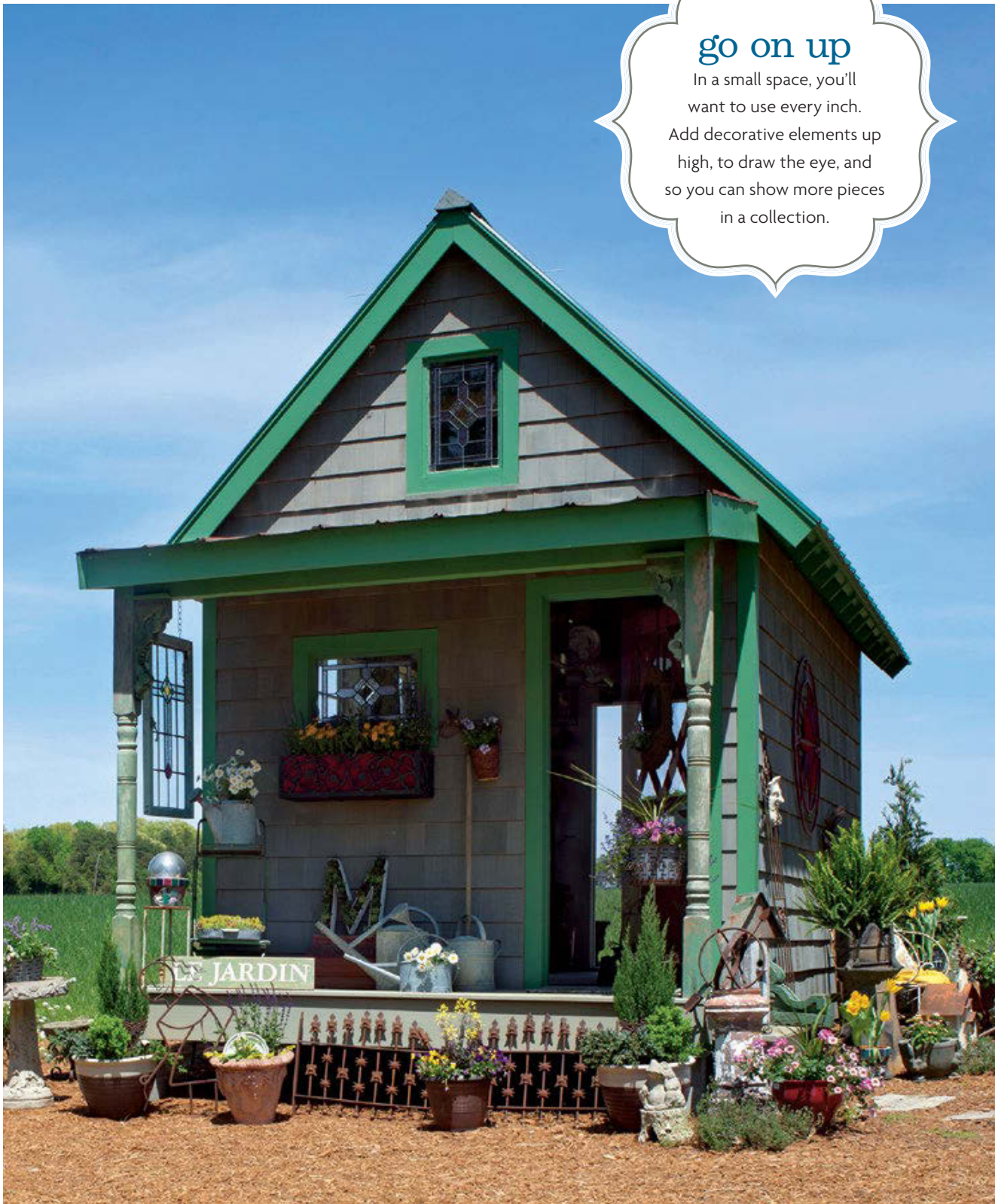
“Stop and smell the lavender.”

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

“The flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.”

“Life is a garden. Leave the flowers and pull the weeds.”

They serve as Mary’s own “notes to self” as she revels in the space she created just for this purpose. “I just did it for me, to have fun,” she says. “It is a playhouse, really, for puttering and playing and blogging.”



go on up

In a small space, you'll want to use every inch. Add decorative elements up high, to draw the eye, and so you can show more pieces in a collection.

THE SIDES of a potting shed are fair game for more decoration, *opposite*. For height, place potted plants atop salvage items such as chimney pots or olive buckets.

FLIP OLD SIGN letters; if they're hollow, fill inside with potting medium and insert tiny succulents, *top left*.

PHOTOCOPY pages of antique seed catalogues, then roll into cone shapes. Secure with hot glue to make a wreath, *center left*.

INSTEAD OF A WINDOW, a framed board covered with chalkboard paint becomes a blank slate for an ever-changeable piece of art, *left*.

THE FRONT PORCH of the potting shed is just large enough to serve as a shelf for seasonal decoration, *above*.

A VINTAGE TRAY serves as a backdrop behind a grapevine wreath that's enlarged with a bottom pouch to hold seasonal touches, *right*.



How does Karin Overbeck's garden grow? With colorful perennials, mounding shrubs, striking structures, and quirky works of art strategically spread across two Wisconsin acres.

written by **Ann Wilson**
photography by **Mark Lohman**
styling by **Sunday Hendrickson**

flights

of fancy





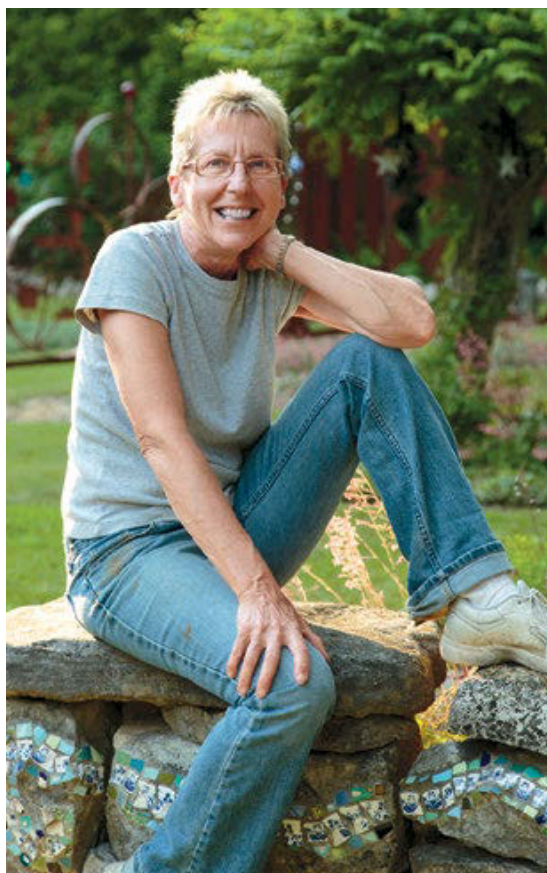
KARIN OVERBECK'S HUSBAND built her square concrete forms that allow her to craft easy-to-handle sectional stepping stones; she links the different stones with a mosaic shaped from stained glass pieces and glass blobs.

TUNED IN "That garden needed something tall and thin," says Karen, pointing to the TV antennae tower she covered in flowery forms, *opposite*. It rises from a border of coreopsis, blazing star, daisies, lilies, and goat's beard.

edit well

Don't cram your gardens with stuff. Use only a few good-looking pieces here and there, or group like objects for easy-on-the-eye displays.

"Ask people who do tiling for materials. You'll get all the tile you'll ever need."





Ever since she and her late husband, Mike, were married in 1986, Karin Overbeck's life has been one of doing, learning, creating, and sharing her knowledge with others. She helped Mike, who passed away in 2001, turn his 1905 school building in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, into a home. Then she turned the surrounding acres into a botanical/art installation that draws in busloads of visitors.

Shortly after they were wed, the couple put an addition on the school. Mike used the rock from the demolition to build walls, paths, and edgings. He built Karin triangular raised beds so she could cultivate gardens atop the bedrock that ranged across the site.

"My mother gave me some roses that had been my grandfather's," recalls Karin. "But, when I went to plant them I couldn't dig big enough holes because of the bedrock, so Mike built me proper beds. I didn't know much about gardening then."

The mosaic and stained glass artist learned more about plants by joining a garden club, taking a part-time job at a nursery, and eventually becoming a master gardener. She put in plants gifted to her by friends, took out those that became invasive, and assembled a colorful setting for her artworks.

"As I got to know plants, I came up with palettes for different areas and gardens," says Karin. "But, the garden is not really about the plants. It's always been about creating a nice place to wander through, about creating a backdrop for the things I build or find."

Her first foray into building garden art kick-started the Open Studio workshops that she holds at her home. Needing extra income, she began to produce mosaic-clad stepping-stones to sell at farmers' markets; the stones attracted attention, with some shoppers asking to buy her entire inventory.

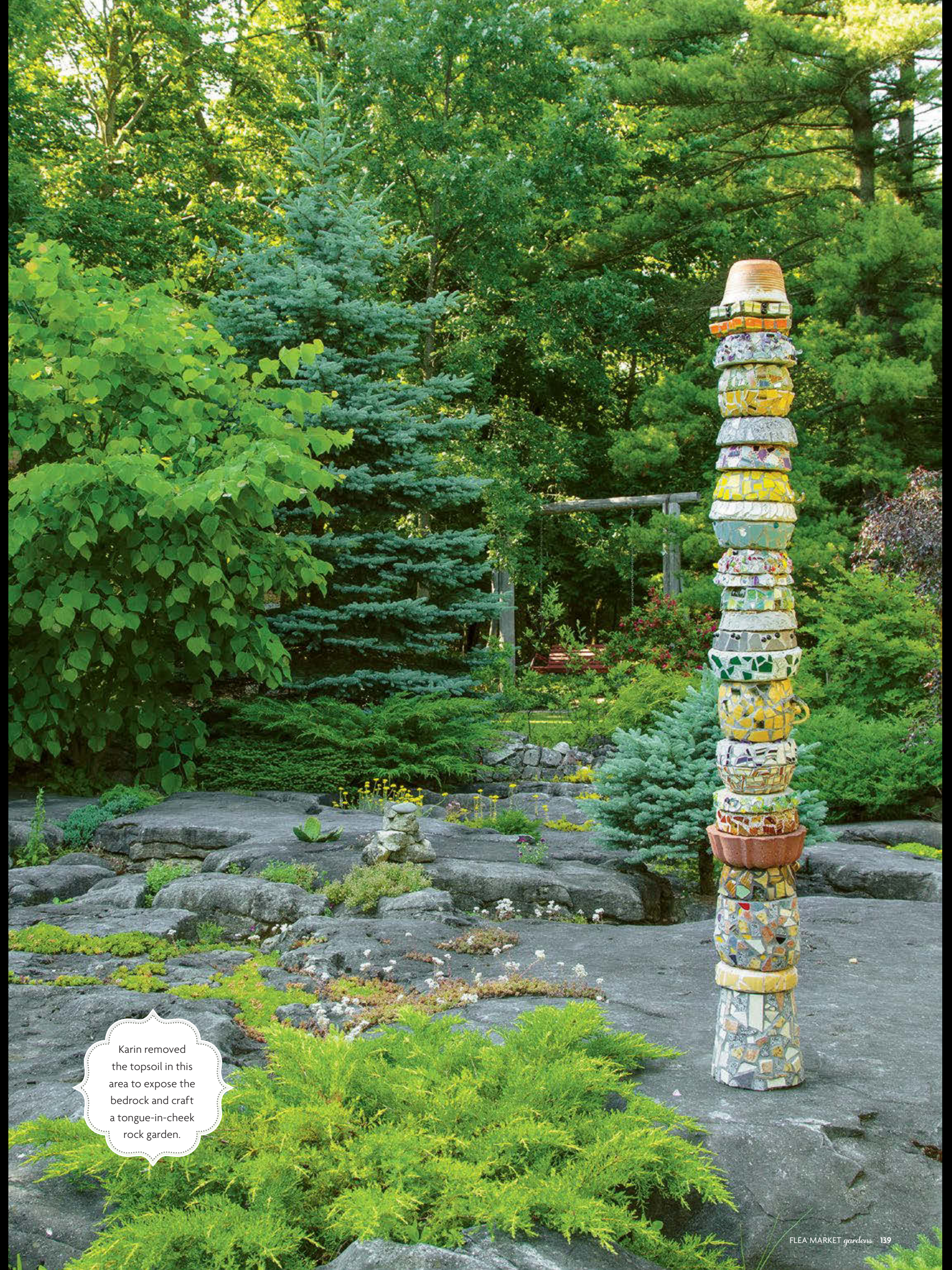
"When I realized that people were interested in

BUTTERFLY BUILDING The shed is enlivened with mosaic panels. As with many of her mosaics, this one features wildlife motifs, *opposite top*. **FLORAL FANTASY** Floral elements surround the pedestal and pot, leading the eye to the rich magenta petunias that fill the pot, *opposite bottom left*. **PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST** Karin Overbeck takes a break from working, making mosaics, and teaching to do what she likes best: enjoying views of her garden, *opposite, bottom center*. **SITTING PRETTY** Karin cast cement into a mold to make four concrete garden benches, *opposite, bottom right*, that she covered with the same mosaic designs rendered in different color combinations. **INSET WITH COLOR** Stained glass windows bring vivid color to the brick dwelling, *top left*. **HOT HUES** A thematic planting of warm orange perennials, such as lilies and red hot poker, pop against the cool green background, *top right*.



WHIMSICAL STATUARY Mosaic patterns, two cement stepping-stones, and a nameless copper-topper thing turn a tile chimney liner into a delightfully kaleidoscopic backyard garden ornament, *above left*. **FRAMING HISTORY** Clambering Virginia creeper vines scale the 1905 school building's walls, *above right*. Karin keeps nearby beds neat and the arborvitae in check by trimming and sculpting the evergreens into tidy mounds and topiary-like forms. **SHUTTER SPEED** A decorative mosaic windowsill accents a stained glass window framed with cut-out shutters, *below left*. **POWER TOWER** Nothing goes to waste at Karin's house. When she has cement left over from stepping-stone projects, she pours it into gelatin molds and Bundt cake pans. After she decants the forms, she covers them with a mix of materials, *below right*. **COLOR POINT** The resulting forms stack up to make an impressive mosaic tower that creates an artistic and colorful punctuation point in the neutral-hue rock garden, *opposite*.



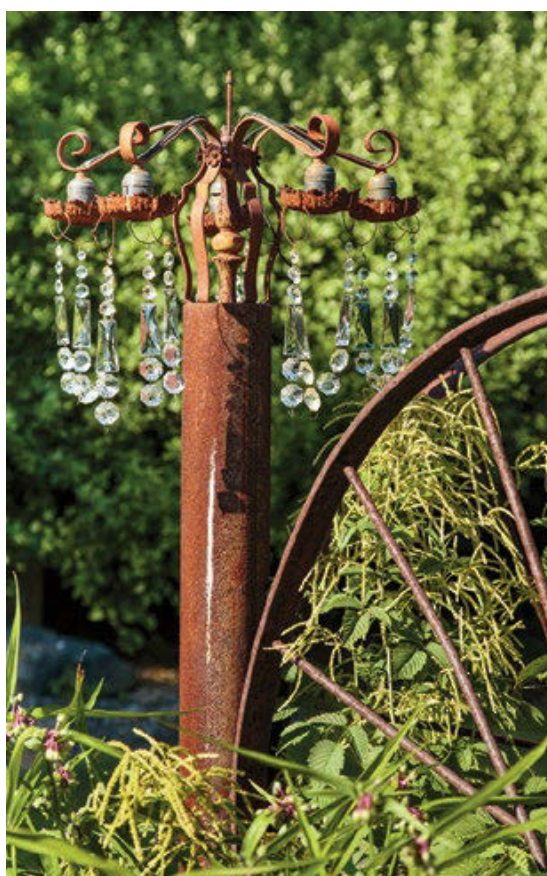


Karin removed the topsoil in this area to expose the bedrock and craft a tongue-in-cheek rock garden.

under foot

Use a traffic-tolerant ground cover, such as woolly thyme, to soften stone edges while blending them into the scene.

*Fantastically whimsical details
personalize Karin's Wisconsin wonderland.*





using these stones in their gardens, I began teaching workshops so people could create their own,” says Karin, who also helps workshop attendees build and repair stained glass windows, make mosaics, and create cement garden sculptures.

An inveterate recycler and make-do artist, Karin takes pride in the garden displays she devises.

“I use things I’ve been given, things I have found, or have just created from my own mind,” says Karin. “I always use what I have on hand for my projects.”

Glass shards from her stained glass windows find their way into her gardens as mosaic-dressed stones, concrete benches, outbuilding walls, and art objects. Iron skeletons (metal panels with industrial parts cut out) purchased for less than \$100 stand as fence-like panels arranged in groupings that represent the area’s ship-building concerns, farming endeavors, arts and music scene, and home and

weather motifs. Karin created a cool art piece from a discarded bucket of concrete she found in the woods and turned a chimney liner into a garden statue. She uses leftover cement from stepping-stone projects to create charming oddities and totem pole-like towers to decorate her truly great outdoor spaces.

Oftentimes her imagination spirals into overdrive. Taking her cue from her home’s academic beginnings, she fashioned a group of recess-enjoying stick figures that she dressed as a dancer, a hippie, a baseball player, and a cowgirl. Karin says it’s these unlikely art pieces that make her garden unique.

“My art pieces bring color to my gardens and are interesting to look at all year round,” says Karin. “I love to just sit down on a bench and look at what’s going on. I see what needs work and think about what I can do to make it better.”

PRIVACY PERSONALIZED A brick arch connects a courtyard with the other gardens. Karin’s artistic hand appears as mosaics on a flowerpot, stone bench, and courtyard walls, *opposite top*. **METAL MAGIC** Rusty iron cutouts and shiny glass discs offer artistic motifs amid the industrial elements, *opposite, bottom left*. **FETCHING FENCES** Salvaged posts and a collection of wagon wheels together create interesting edging for triangular gardens, *opposite, bottom center*. Karin crowned the posts with crystal fixtures. **INGENIOUS SOLUTIONS** Karin created a fence panel from a wagon wheel accented with a rebar star that she set within a metal frame, *opposite, bottom right*. **WIND CHIMES** Karin suspends metal stars from the tops of her industrial skeletons so she can hear them clanging when breezes blow through, *top left*. **TRAFFIC POST** A mosaic-clad totem adorns a garden crossroads, *top right*.

resources

Here's where to find some of the products shown on the pages of *Flea Market Gardens*. We cannot guarantee the availability of items or services.



SHED RETREAT

Pages 16-23

Lumber, red cedar fence pickets, corrugated metal roofing, hardware, concrete mix, copper pipe, pipe adapter, shrubs, perennials, annuals, potting soil, mulch—Lowe's Home Improvement Stores; lowes.com. **Yellow 7-liter watering can, orange rubber hose, orange Revolver spray nozzle, purple bypass pruners, orange compact shears, yellow scissors, purple Turret sprinkler**—DRAMM Corporation; Dramm is available at local independent garden centers such as Ace Hardware, True Value, and Do It Best Stores. Also available at amazon.com.

Paint in Provence, Versailles, and Arles, no. 16 paintbrush—Annie Sloan Chalk Paint®; anniesloanunfolded.com.

Brackets, balusters, window frame—West End Architectural Salvage; 515/243-4405; westendsalvage.com.

Apron fabric—Westminster Fibers; 866/907-3305; westminsterfibers.com. **Cookie cutters, glass insulators, beverage box, tool box, metal stool**—The Brass Armadillo; brassarmadillo.com.



POTTING HAVEN

Pages 80-85

Interior Design—Jamie Merida; bountifuldecor.com.

Architect—Jon Braithwaite; atelier11architecture.com.

Landscape Design—Geoffrey Stone; nottinghillgardens.com.



COUNTRY RENEWAL

Pages 112-119

Find Little Hill Farm on Facebook—Little Hill Farm; 360/495-3299



HOME IS WHERE THE SHED IS

Pages 126-133

Shake shingles in Blue Shadow SW 3531, Interior walls in White Heron SW 7627, Exterior of doors in Fireweed SW 6328, Trim color in Inland SW6452, Porch and interior floor in SW 3041 Cypress Moss Deckscapes® Exterior Acrylic Solid Color Deck Stain—Sherwin-Williams; sherwin-williams.com.

Chest of drawers paint—Annie Sloan Chalk Paint®; anniesloanunfolded.com.

Drawer pulls—Anthropologie; anthropologie.com.



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Garden Tools



Forge a connection to your flea-market garden with vintage hand tools and implements. Using old tools, machinery and farm implements as garden art is really nothing new. Old hay rakes and tillers have always hung on shed or barn walls in rural America, but more and more you see them cropping up in urban areas as well. Whether it's a way to relate to the past or remember simpler times, decorating with farm and garden tools brings character to your garden.

The beauty of old implements is that you don't have to worry about upkeep. Rust is part of their appeal. These pieces look best in a naturalistic setting, and the simpler they are, the better they look. Unless it's a family heirloom, a tool doesn't have to be treated like a precious artifact. If a tool is still sturdy and functional, use it. If it's fragile, repurpose it as a door pull, for example, or turn it into a display piece.



Photo by Diane Guthrie

A TOOLSHED'S WORTH of weathered antiques makes up this captivating artwork, its dense layers radiating out like spiny flower petals.



GAP Photos/Elke Borkowski; Background image: Caruth Studio/Sarah Norton

Punctuating a fence like exclamation points, these old tools contrast with the glass globes in between.

know before you buy

Most old tools have been used well and discarded, so it's unlikely you will come across anything that's rare, expensive, or museum quality. Buy tools that you're drawn to, that have character, or show solid workmanship. You shouldn't have to pay more than a few dollars for most hand tools.

Look for tools at tag and estate sales or farm auctions, where they can often be bought on the cheap. Pieces at flea markets and antique shops will likely cost quite a bit more. Keep your eyes open for finds on big-trash pickup days, as well. And let your friends know what you're looking for, too—you never know what they or a great-uncle have hidden in their sheds.



Photo by www.tonygiammarino.com



GAP Photos/Christa Brand



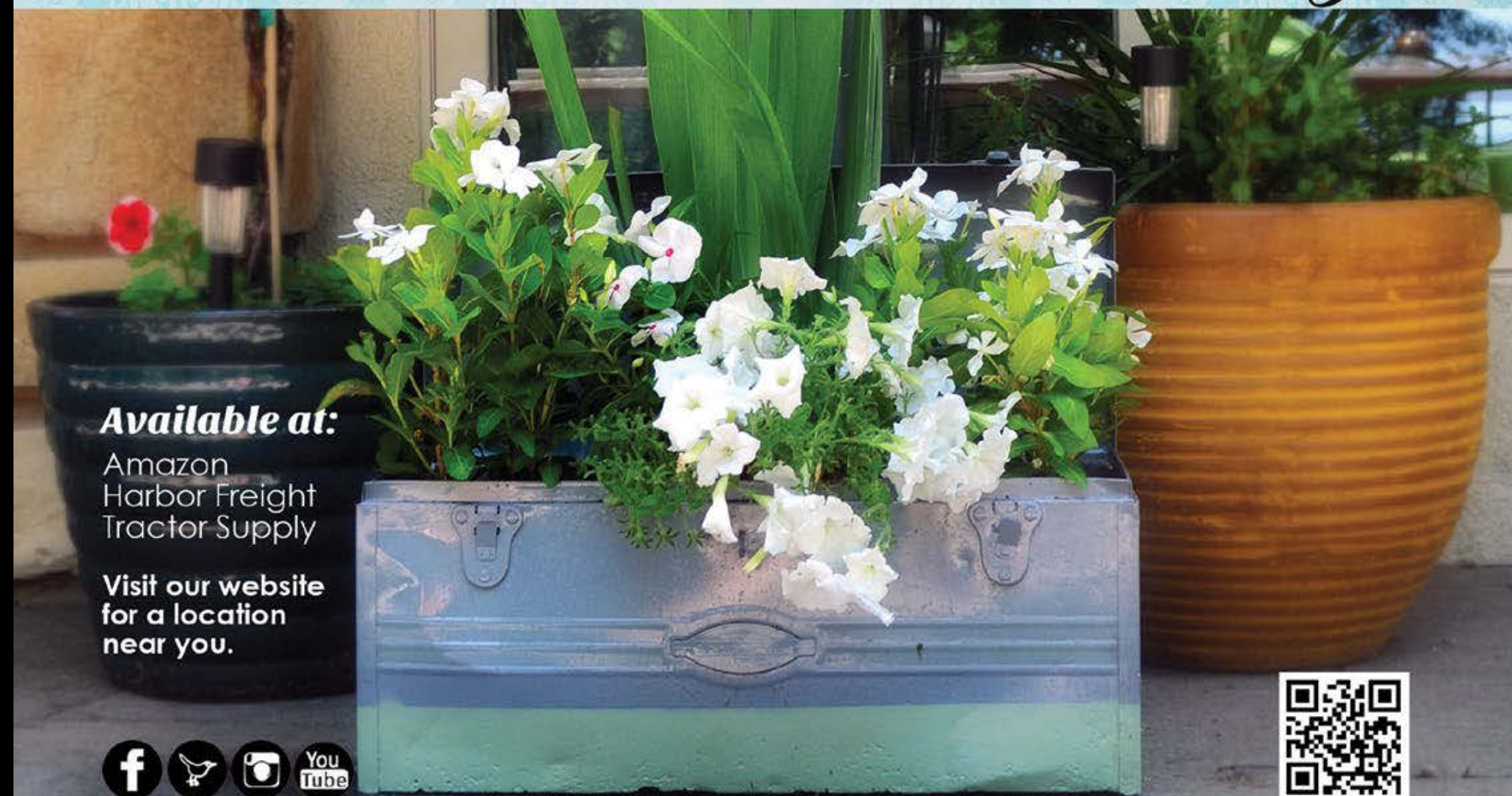
Photo by Janet Loughrey, Landscape design by Millie Kiggins and Penny Vogel

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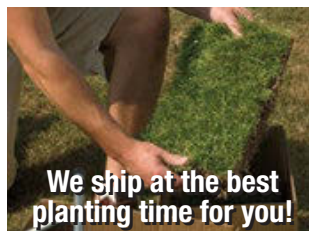
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